Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-191
Thursday
1 October 1992

Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-92-191 *1 October 1992*

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Lebanon

Israeli helicopters have attacked targets in the southern Lebanese villages of Dayr Qanun al-Nahr and 'Ayn Bu Siwar. Beirut radio reports that the helicopters fired missiles into "citizens' homes" in the late evening on 30 September. Jerusalem radio, reporting on the same incidents, says the attacks were directed at "Hizballah terrorist targets" and that all Israeli planes returned safely. According to Israeli sources, the air raids were in response to a 29 September Hizballah attack on South Lebanese Army positions. Tel Aviv DAVAR reports a "senior military source" as saying that Israel Defense Forces might even be forced to respond with "ground action" if Hizballah activity along Israel's northern border does not cease.

An Amal statement, reported by Beirut radio, noted a coincidence between the recent Israeli "military escalation" in Lebanon and "certain political stances declared by the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, which do not serve Lebanon's interests and are not compatible with promises and efforts to advance the peace process."

Qatar-Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabian troops reportedly attacked a Qatari border post, causing Qatar to sever a 27-year-old border agreement with the Kingdom, while a Saudi source denied that the country's troops were involved. The Qatari News Agency and AFP report that two people were killed when Saudi troops reportedly attacked a Qatari border post at Al-Khaffus, which is in a disputed region. Despite a "message" from King Fahd delivered by the Saudi ambassador, Qatar decided to "unilaterally sever" a 1965 border agreement with Saudi Arabia. In an emergency session the Qatari cabinet called for negotiations with Riyadh to "demarcate" a common border. According to Riyadh SPA, a "responsible source" denied the Qatari reports of the action and says the clash was an "exchange of shooting between bedouins at a location inside Saudi territory."

Iran

A Foreign Ministry official has announced that Iran is ready to continue negotiations with the United Arab Emirates "without any preconditions and within the framework of respect for national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and good-neighborly relations," IRNA reports. Meanwhile, the major Iranian media comment on the issue. Tehran radio charges that the situation was being used to divert attention from Palestine. RESALAT joins several other dailies in asserting that the "UAE claim against Iran" is "part of a 'controlled crisis' by the United States for pressuring Iran," IRNA reports. A TEHRAN TIMES article highlighted by the agency warns that "if the UAE leaders intend to aggrandize the present crisis they should realize that Iran's patience is not unlimited."

Libya

The Lockerbie incident "has no relation to the embargo on arms to Libya," Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi contended in a speech carried live from Surt by Tripoli television on the occasion of the fourth annual Loyalty Day. Following his explication of the Montreal accord's provisions regarding civil aviation, al-Qadhdhafi reasserted that the embargo "has revealed a conspiracy against the Libyan people" and that it prevents them from exercising their legitimate right to self-defense as stipulated in the UN Charter.

Sudan

John Garang, the founder of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), has been ousted by his "number two," according to claims broadcast by London BBC World Service. According to the Nasir faction of the SPLA, which broke away last year but has been trying to mend fences with Garang, Commander William Nyuan Bany has gone on the radio to tell SPLA units in southern Sudan, the Blue Nile, and southern Kurdufan that beginning 28 September "he is the leader of the movement and not...John Garang." AFP reports that Garang, now in Kampala, has called reports of his ouster "a fake and an illusion."

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Husayni: Referendum Should Be on PLO

TA3009194092 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 28 Sep 92 p 16

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni by AL-FAJR correspondent Khaled Abu Aker; date, place not given]

[Text] Q: There have been many calls for a referendum on the political process; one of them was from Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation. What is the possibility of such a referendum?

A: I think it's necessary to hold a referendum. But I mean a clear referendum, not a passing question, so that everyone can give his or her unequivocal opinion. That is, if the referendum is on continuing or not continuing in the peace process.

But if the referendum is on giving a mandate, if this is what's desired, the question should be whether or not to give the PLO the mandate to continue in this process. The question should not be, "Does the delegation have the mandate or not?" because the delegation is only appointed by the PLO. It has a temporary mandate. The mandate of the people should be for the PLO, not the delegation.

Q: Do you think it's practical to hold such a referendum now?

A: As things are today, it might seem impossible. But if we wanted to work, I think with cooperation and more effort, we could reach the point where we could hold such a referendum.

Q: The Palestinian opposition is calling on the Palestinian delegation to withdraw from the negotiations and come back to the people and ask their opinion. Visible evidence was the recent successful strike which the opposition was able to implement in the occupied territories and other areas in protest of autonomy. How do you evaluate this?

A: Strikes, and how much people abide by them, are no indication that everyone who struck is against the peace process and committed to the call (to strike). Many merchants struck, as they announced, because they noticed that becoming involved in an issue like striking or not striking could lead to a conflict or confrontation. Everybody is against that, no one wanted confrontations in the Palestinian streets because of this issue.

The opposition groups, which are 10 in number, issued a statement from Damascus demanding strikes in Syria itself in protest of the Palestinian delegation's continued participation in the peace process. Some are against the style and some against the principle (of negotiations).

I wonder why they didn't direct their protest to Syria, which is part of the peace process. It would have been better for the Voice of Jerusalem (radio station run by PFLP-GC, Ahmad Jibril), which is based in Damascus, to call for a Syrian withdrawal from the negotiations and not be satisfied with calling on only the Palestinian side.

Q: The radio station also called upon Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi to resign from his position as leader of the delegation. It considered the strike a Palestinian referendum that proved the Palestinian rejection to the peace process...

A: There is no relationship between the strike and Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi's resignation. He's not the president of Palestine, and he has no mandate from the citizens. He has a mandate from the Palestine Liberation Organization, which is the only party that can decide on this issue.

'Abd-al-Shafi is doing his job, just like all the other members of the delegation. When he personally is not convinced with the possibility of continuing his job, he can submit his resignation. But it shouldn't happen because a certain Arab capital called for it.

Q: Now that the sixth round of bilateral talks has come to an end, what is your evaluation?

A: Let me say that there is some optimism on some fronts. As for us, we developed our style of presentation and thereby received support for our demands. In the meantime, we preserved all the basic principals in what we proposed.

Israel found it difficult to directly reject our proposals. That's why (Israeli chief delegate Elyaqim) Rubinstein said, "There is a serious Palestinian proposal, but we still disagree." This indicates that the Israelis are ready, it seems, to read and listen. We will find out if they are ready in the next round, if they come back with positive responses, or if they repeat the whole thing and come back only with negative responses.

Q: So is there disappointment among the Palestinians with the results of this round?

A: We had laid down several viewpoints. One was the possibility of Rabin offering more positive proposals. Another was the possibility of being more negative. So we were ready to confront any perceptions.

Therefore, I can't say there is shock or disappointment. Maybe we were disappointed because Rabin could have given something better than he offered, but didn't.

Q: Is there a fear on the side of the Palestinians that there could be progress on the Syrian-Israeli track without parallel progress on the other tracks?

A: So far, I can say that Israel is unable to pressure Syria in an effort to obtain certain concessions. Syria is not in a fix regarding the Golan issue. It can stand firm.

The question is how much the United States can pressure Syria, and here might lie a surprise for the Palestinians, if Syria succumbs to U.S. pressure. By coordinating

between us and Syria, we can overcome this pressure and limit it to the direction that benefits our cause.

I mean the battle concerns how much damage can be done if the United States pressures Syria. But U.S. pressure on Syria doesn't mean that Israel will be the sole winner.

Q: Is the Palestinian side assured that Syria will not do anything that leads to a separate settlement?

A: Syrian assurances and Palestinian-Syrian communication indicate there will be no separate settlements and in particular the Syrian party. I can say that there is no Syrian intention to take such a step. I am sure there will be no final settlement unless the progress on all tracks is satisfactory. Therefore, we will not accept any separate settlements by any of the sides in this process.

'Abd-al-Shafi on Peace Talks, Syrian Policy

JN3009184192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Telephone interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, "head of the Palestinian side of the joint delegation with Jordan" to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, by Sa'id Mu'addi, carried within the "With the Events" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, good evening.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Good evening.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Haydar, another round of bilateral negotiations has ended in Washington. How do you assess the results of this round as far the Palestinian side is concerned?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In fact, brother Sa'id, I cannot say that any actual progress has been achieved. Israeli and Palestinian views are still at odds. However, we spent the time attempting to explore stands and find common ground to help advance the negotiations. In this regard, I believe there has been more understanding, especially through the holding of unofficial meetings. I hope that at the next round of talks we will be able to reach common ground to enable us to go beyond the current impasse.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Haydar, we are talking about common ground, and there are some common denominators between the Israeli and Palestinian working papers. Why does the Palestinian side not sign a joint statement on the issues agreed upon so far?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In fact, there is nothing which we can call a common denominator, especially with regard to the basic issue, which is territory. Perhaps views have become closer or can become closer with regard to services, health, and education. However, the basic issue of interest to us, over which we must reach an agreement, is territory. In this regard, there are still no common denominators. This is because Israel refuses to let the provisional Palestinian government have any authority over territory. This is something we cannot accept. We will not accept a government with administrative authorities only. Besides, we consider such a government to be provisional; there is to be a subsequent period during which the final status of the occupied territories will be negotiated. This lies at the heart of differences between the Israeli and Palestinian positions.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Haydar, will the Palestinian side come to the next round of negotiations with new ideas and proposals which can give new momentum to the negotiations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We hope that the Israeli side will come with new ideas. For our part, I affirm to you and your listeners that our orientation toward peace is serious and honest. However, this is not at the expense of basic matters. We are honest, but we are not ready to cede what we see as our basic rights. We will be very flexible within the framework of this concept. Therefore, we do hope that the Israeli side will come to the next round of talks armed with new ideas.

[Mu'addi] It has been reported that Palestinians are worried about the possibility of a peace agreement being reached with Syria. This would isolate the Palestinian problem. What do you have to say about this?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We are not worried at all. We are confident that Syria is proceeding along its pan-Arab course with full responsibility. Syria knows that the peace issue is indivisible. I can say that we are happy to feel that there has been progress along the Syrian-Israeli track. This is because we believe that this will necessarily lead to progress along the Palestinian-Israeli track. The issue of peace is indivisible. We have absolute trust in our Syrian brothers.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian side, thank you.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Thank you.

Talks Delegate Comments on Israeli 'Concessions'

JN3009121992 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Sep 92 pp 32, 17

[By Tawfiq al-'Abid]

[Text] Dr. 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi, member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation's advisory committee, has revealed a Palestinian-Israeli agreement reached in the recent round of negotiations, stipulating the release of all administrative prisoners and detainees in the Israeli prisons and detention camps. The agreement also sitpulates the closing down of the Ansar-3 detention camp in the Negev desert.

He told AL-DUSTUR that the agreement calls for 2,000-3,000 detainees to be released before the start of the seventh round of negotiations to be held on 21 October. It was also agreed that fees for exit permits from the

West Bank and Gaza Strip will be reduced from the current 100 dinars to a nominal sum for each exit or entry.

Al-Shu'aybi said: During more than one meeting, the Israelis stated their willingness to give up and comprehensively withdraw from the Gaza Strip, and to unconditionally evacuate the settlements occupied by about 3,000 settlers.

He said he disagrees with those who say that no progress has been made on the Palestinian-Israeli track. In fact, he said, progress has been made in more than one side meeting on all issues presented for discussion.

Regarding the deportees, he said: The Israelis have agreed in principle on the return of deportees providing this is done in a practical way by submitting a separate application for each deportee. However, he added, we rejected the Israeli proposal and our stand adheres to the right of every deportee since 1967 to return unconditionally to his homeland in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention. Our stand also adheres to releasing detainees, stopping pursual for tax payment, and halting group punishment, curfews, and the policy of demolishing houses.

As for the treatment of the Palestinian delegation, Dr. al-Shu'aybi said that the Amercians have mediated between the Palestinian and Israeli sides without reaching a clear formula. But, the Israeli delegation, he added, offered to give full immunity to the negotiating team and to deal with it as a united team whose members are allowed to move freely within the occupied homeland, particularly during curfew periods, except at military installations. The Israel delegation agreed that the homes of the Palestinian negotiating team will not be searched, that they will not be searched at check points unless weapons are discovered, and that it will suffice for them to simply pass through the X-ray machines.

Al-Shu'aybi said: The Israelis also did not oppose having a headquarters for the Palestinian delegation in Jerusalem. However, they refused to deal with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the delegation's steering committee, whether for receiving or delivering documents or for any other reason, because he holds an identity card issued from Jerusalem.

Commenting on the negotiations, Dr. al-Shu'aybi said: The Palestinian delegation did not offer any concessions on the delegation's main stands while the Israeli side has offered various unilateral concessions.

He added: At first, the Israelis rejected the mere discussion of Jerusalem, considering it nonnegotiable. However, during the side meetings, more than one member of the Israeli delegation offered to place Jerusalem not at the beginning of the agenda but at the end so that it can be discussed as part of the elections.

Commenting on the settlement activities, Dr. al-Shu'aybi said that the delegation reviewed the loan agreement signed by U.S. President George Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The agreement includes an Israeli pledge not to construct new settlements and buildings as of early October within the geographic area that was not under Israeli supervision on 4 June 1967.

The agreement gives the U.S. president the right to stop the loans if the Israeli side does not abide by its promise, and to use the U.S. system of observation.

Regarding the formation of a legislative council in the occupied homeland, al-Shu'aybi said: The Israelis continue to reject unlimited legislation [al-tashri' al-mutlaq] and they have submitted a number of formulas preventing this role from being exercised, such as forming a council of between 50 and 60 members instead of 15.

They have also proposed that we form a committee from both sides, that we submit a list of laws and regulations that we would like to enact over a period of five years so that they can be approved in advance. For any new law or required legislation during the transitional period, a bilateral committee—Palestinian-Israeli—or a tripartite committee—Palestinian-Israeli-Jordanian—will be formed to discuss and approve such a move. We rejected the Israeli proposal and adhered to electing a legislative council with full powers, including unlimited power over legislation.

Concerning the implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, al-Shu'aybi said: The Israeli side presented an official working paper expressing commitment to The Hague agreement of 1904 which is the basis of the Fourth Geneva Convention and the UN Charter. The Hague agreement was deferred to legal advisers of the Palestinian delegation as well as Arab and foreign experts for discussion, after which they will submit their recommendations.

Al-Shu'aybi said the Israelis expressed their readiness to implement the Geneva Convention de facto and not de jure, because they do not want to recognize its political connotations.

Al-Shu'aybi said: There is an important point of difference concerning the transitional period and its connection to Resolution 242. While the Palestinian side regards it as a preliminary period before the implementation of Resolution 242, the Israeli side regards it merely as a period to test good intentions.

In sideline meetings, the Israelis made another concession on land, agreeing that Palestinian authority could cover both the land and its inhabitants. However, they refused to define the geographic area which would be under the supervision and administration of Palestinian national authority. They also agreed to provide the Palestinian negotiating team with the information it needs on the various issues and areas provided this is done during, and not before or outside, the negotiations.

Answering a question, al-Shu'aybi said that certain mediators, whom he did not name, are mediating between the PLO and the Israeli Government on linking the transitional phase with the final stage and Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as the reaching of a formula acceptable to both sides.

Al-Shu'aybi said: Mediation has not ended with the conclusion of the sixth round of talks but is still continuing to bring viewpoints closer and reach an agreement in principle before the next round of talks, scheduled for 21 October in Washington, begins.

Al-Shu'aybi said: At the negotiating table, the Israeli delegation voiced its commitment to Resolution 242 as a basis for settlement, but the Palestinian delegation became suspicious and apprehensive when, in answer to a question from a Palestinian negotiator, the head of the Israeli team Rubinstein and delegation member Dani Rotschild said that the final solution is still open, even to annexation.

We asked the Americans to provide us with an official pledge on implementing Resolution 242 in the final phase of the future of the West Bank and Gaza, but they rejected the Palestinian demand and claimed that they did not want to add a new document on top of the letter of invitation to the Madrid conference.

Regarding the role of the Palestinian leadership in Tunisia in directing the negotiations, al-Shu'aybi said: For the first time, a higher committee under Yasir 'Arafat took direct command of the Palestinian negotiating team. [sentence as published] The committee comprises Faruq Qaddumi, Shafiq al-Hut, Abu-Mahir [Muhammad Ratib] Ghunaym, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Sulayman al-Najjab, Sakhr Habash, Dr. Samir Ghawshah, and representatives from other Palestinian factions. Al-Shu'aybi said that the Palestinian negotiating team insisted that all displaced people must return during the transitional phase, whereas the right to return should be discussed in detail at the beginning of the third year of the transitional period by the committees of the multilateral conference and in accordance with UN resolutions, especially Resolution 194.

Palestinian Faction Seeks Iranian Funding

PM3009134592 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Sep 92 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Split in Popular Struggle Front Worsens"]

[Excerpts] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—No good has come of the internal disputes inside the Palestine Popular Struggle Front, as the final separation between the main wing led by Dr. Samir Ghawshah and the dissident wing led by Politburo Member Khalid 'Abd-al-Majid has been confirmed. That is not all. AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained documents which prove that 'Abd-al-Majid's wing turned to Iran for financial support, and that some leaders of the organizations sold properties worth $500,000 belonging to the Front. [passage omitted]

The dispute broadened when Khalid 'Abd-al-Majid led a tendency rejecting the Madrid conference, its results, and subsequent bilateral and multilateral negotiations. By contrast, Dr. Samir Ghawshah took a position supporting the PLO in the peace negotiations. Something else that surfaced was a new idea by Dr. Ghawshah—namely to focus on struggle inside the occupied territories and not to allow certain symbols and figures to monopolize the organization's leadership—which conflicts with 'Abd-al-Majid's view. This calls for keeping the historical leaderships in their positions and for paying attention to action outside the internal arena. [passage omitted]

The PLO leadership's attempts to end the disputes inside the Struggle Front failed. An agreement sponsored by Yasir 'Arafat was concluded between the two conflicting parties 18 May in the presence of Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Sulayman al-Najjab. The agreement stipulated that the Front's internal crisis should be ended as soon as possible.

The Central Committee held a meeting for all its members, except those who could not attend, 18 June in Tunis to secure a final solution to the dispute on the basis of the Front's internal code and higher national interests. The agreement was signed by nine Politburo members, including Dr. Samir Ghawshah. But the agreement's effectiveness ended immediately after it was signed, as 'Abd-al-Majid's Politburo did not respond to verbal invitations to hold another meeting and its members also refused to accept the written invitations to a reconciliation meeting on the same day the agreement was signed.

'Abd-al-Majid's movement chose to turn to Iran to extricate itself from the financial crisis. AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained a secret document which proves that this tendency requested financial help from Tehran estimated at $250,000 a month. This document says, in part: "We have a pressing need for an exceptional payment in order to pay the financial deficit that has accumulated since the crisis began. Apart from the accumulating expenses, your brothers the mujahidin have already waited for seven months without any [financial] allocations."

The document adds: "Our needs on the Syrian and Lebanese scenes in terms of allocations, business expenses, fuel, and supplies are estimated at $100,000 a month as a minimum. As for our needs inside [the occupied territories]—whether with regard to the intifadah, its popular committee, the strike force, or the mass action programs designed to form local institutions alongside those on external scenes like Jordan—they are

estimated at $150,000 a month as a minimum." Khalid 'Abd-al-Majid's movement also proposed development of bilateral relations and provision of material "logistical" aid to the Front.

This open request came after a secret memorandum which the Struggle Front "Khalid 'Abd-al-Majid" submitted to Iran's ambassador in Damascus, in which the Front hinted that it was inclined to allow Tehran to use military positions belonging to the Front in Lebanon—in Bhamdun, al-Rawdah area, and al-Badawi camp, Nahr al-Barid, al-Miyah wa Miyah, 'Ayn al-Hulwah, and 'Ayn al-Mir cam

The disaster was not only that the Struggle Front threw itself into Iran's arms. AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained a document which proves that members from the Politburo loyal to Khalid 'Abd-al-Majid were implicated in selling properties belonging to the Front. Even now no one knows where the money from the sale has gone, as it has not reached the Front's coffers! [passage omitted]

Despite the Front's disarray, it still insists on carrying out paramilitary operations in the occupied territories. And according to Rizq Nammurah, secretary of the Popular Struggle Front, the Front sees peace as a new struggle field.

Egypt

Prime Minister Leads Delegation to Tripoli

NC0110095892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Cairo, 1 Oct (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi left Cairo for the Libyan capital Tripoli this morning to take part in the meetings of the Higher Joint Egyptian-Libyan Committee, which will begin its work tomorrow morning. The committee will be chaired by Dr. Sidqi and his Libyan counterpart Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the General People's Committee.

Dr. Sidqi is accompanied by a high-level ministerial delegation consisting of the ministers of transport and communications, works and water resources, industry, scientific research, health, economy, finance, manpower and training, international cooperation, petroleum, and education. The delegation also includes the governor of Matruh.

Musa Comments on Peace Talks, Tension in Gulf

NC0110091492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1722 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Washington, 30 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stressed that Middle East peace cannot be achieved unless the principle of land for peace is applied. He said this principle does not mean exchanging part of the territories for complete peace or all the territories in return for a limited peace; it means all the territories in exchange for complete peace.

In an important lecture to the Brookings Institute for Political Studies in Washington today, the foreign minister referred to the peace process initiated by the United States with a view to achieving a settlement in the Middle East. He stressed that Egypt is committed to giving all possible assistance. He noted that Egypt's relations with all the parties involved in the peace proses enable it to talk to everybody. He added that Egypt feels hope and optimism that the ongoing talks will succeed, because of the changes within Israel that brought the current government under Yitzhaq Rabin to power. Musa said these changes have created a better atmosphere for the negotiations, but he pointed out that this atmosphere has not been translated into real or tangible progress. He stressed that a "better atmosphere is indeed a good thing, but it is not enough."

Musa expressed his belief that progress in the Palestinian-Israeli talks on autonomy is possible. He also noted that progress can also be made in a short time in the talks between Syria and Israel, but he again stressed that the expected positive results must be based on the principle of land for peace and Security Council Resolution 242. He stressed that efforts now focus on reaching a "comprehensive settlement" on all tracks of the negotiations.

Answering a question, Musa pointed out that as far as the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations are concerned, it is better not to waste time playing with names and definitions. He noted that if an agreement is reached today on the start of the five-year interim period for autonomy, it means that negotiations on the final solution will begin three years from now. He said it is in the Palestinian interest to reach an agreement as soon as possible. Musa also stressed that Egypt understands the Palestinian viewpoint and unquestionably backs the Palestinian right to self- determination.

Turning to the Gulf, Musa described things as dangerous and extremely serious. He noted tension in the region because of the crisis resulting from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the Gulf war, and its consequences and that Iran tried to exploit this tension. It has started to think or believe that it can capitalize on the situation and may have already started to take measures or carry out specific acts. It occupied the Tunb al-Kubra and Tunb al-Sughra islands, and then stirred the current crisis by taking measures against Abu Musa island as well. He noted that this Iranian stand raises questions on the reaction of the "Arab order" and other questions on the effectiveness of security or defensive agreements concluded between the Gulf states and some major states.

Musa noted what he described as the "Arab silence" when Iran occupied the Tunb al-Kubra and Tunb al-Sughra islands. He said the Security Council must take a stand on this issue through international law. He noted the Arab League stand in support of the United Arab Emirates, particularly its demand for specific measures by the Security Council, especially with the talks between the UAE Government and an Iranian delegation not reaching any results.

The foreign minister stressed that the Gulf region cannot withstand any more tension or tolerate another confrontation. He said the situation must be handled in line with UN principles and the rules of international law.

Answering a question, Musa said the Damascus Declaration was the first Arab document to be signed after the Gulf war. He added that the "Arab order" failed to handle the crisis of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, something that proved the order needed to be reconsidered. He said the Damascus Declaration, despite the slow pace of its implementation, was one of the means of rethinking the Arab order.

The foreign minister described the situation in Bosnia as very serious and expressed regret that while the world has long struggled against racism and discrimination, today's events are occurring in civilized Europe in the year 1992. He noted that the European order has also failed to deal with this problem in the same way that the Arab order failed to handle the Gulf crisis. He stressed that Egypt, aware of the grave situation in Bosnia, calls on the world to take serious, effective, and strong measures to end this tragedy, because "an aggression is an aggression wherever it takes place, just as an occupation is an occupation wherever it is."

Tantawi Comments on Security, Sudan, Iran

NC3009181492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 30 Sep (MENA)—Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi has stated that all the unpublished facts and documents related to the October 1973 war will be published next year. The defense minister noted that committees from the Egyptian Armed Forces have been working for some time to compile these facts and secrets and collect data for publication.

In an interview with the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR to be published on Friday, the defense minister stressed that the October war results still linger on, noting that the lessons of the October war were useful in the war for the liberation of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Concerning the Damascus Declaration, the defense minister said it is not a military declaration, but a political, economic, diplomatic, and military one whose components relate to comprehensive strategy. He added that putting these components into practice will be effected by order of priorities. He added: The military part of this declaration might need careful study and some deliberations, and we are not in a hurry about its implementation because it involves sensitive issues for some parties.

Regarding arms reduction, the defense minister said: We believe that this reduction must apply to nonconventional weapons [al- aslihah fawq al-taqlidiyah], thus reconciling President Bush's initiative with that of President Mubarak, who called for the elimination of nonconventional weapons from the Middle East without exception. He added: It is inconceivable to reduce arms in one country and leave the door wide open for another country in the region. This is not sensible; it is unacceptable. The defense minister noted that the presence of a nuclear bomb in Israel is a source of concern, and this concern can be eliminated if a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region is attained. He added that no country in the region has the intention of keeping such weapons, because they pose a threat to the other countries. He noted that Israel's use of such weapons would be highly dangerous for it. He pointed out that the general line of the Egyptian strategy is to work for peace and establish balanced relations with everyone.

In the interview, the defense minister touched on Egypt's arms production and efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in this field. He said: We have embarked on arms production so that we may not depend entirely on imports. Now we have entered the manufacturing stage and are currently producing the U.S tank M-1A1 and are assembling armored vehicles, with some parts made locally and others imported. He added: There are some weapons that are entirely manufactured in Egypt, including all types of guns, projectiles, ammunition, and communication systems at all levels—some of which are exported—and night vision equipment.

Turning to the question of national security in southern Egypt and its relationship to the High Dam, the defense minister ruled out the existence of any threat to the High Dam. He added that regardless of the magnitude of differences with Sudan, the relations linking the Sudanese and Egyptian peoples are eternal, and it is hard to imagine that any regime in Sudan would embark on such a step. He noted that the threats in the south are confined to camps that help train some terrorists with a view to causing disturbances in Egypt, as well as to certain acts of incitement at the instruction of a third party, which believes that its increasing influence in Sudan could pose a threat to Egypt. The defense minister added: There is also another thing which concerns our southern borders in the Hala'ib region, or what is called the administrative region. He noted President Mubarak's emphasis that this issue must be resolved within the framework of respect for borders and charters, and must not lead to a crisis meant to serve other purposes. This is because everything is defined in the treaties, charters, and documents that go back to the year 1899 and also in the Sudanese Constitution, he added. He added: We hope the Sudanese brothers will be persuaded by reality and the sound charters and will not create a problem between us out of this issue. We hope there will be no war and hope the Sudanese have the same feeling.

In response to a question about the Iranian intervention in the region, the defense minister said: As far as the southern part of Egypt is concerned, it is a matter of survival for us because the Nile is our lifeline. He added: We hope the Iranian leadership will stay away from creating any disturbances through the south, but so far we do not consider Iran as a hostile country. He added: What I want to say is that we hope that Iran as a state, which is a power not to be underestimated, will give power to Islam and the region and not be a burden to them.

Rabin Said To Prefer Stalemate to Progress

NC3009115692 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 30 Sep 92

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled "Doubts and Fears," the newspaper AL-AHRAM today says that [Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq] Rabin's recent remarks suggest he prefers stalemate to progress and that the hopes surrounding his accession to power may prove to be unfounded.

AL-AHRAM recalls that Rabin has tried, in his public statements, to appear as a catalyst to the peace talks, but has failed to match his rhetoric with offers at the negotiating table. Rabin, the paper points out, voiced promising and sometimes daring ideas that could give the talks substance and help solve the existing problems. But, in the intervals between the various rounds of talks, Rabin voiced different views.

In one instance, the paper writes, Rabin announced the possibility of allowing contacts with the PLO and canceling the laws banning or outlawing such contacts. In a recent interview with the newspaper MA'ARIV, Rabin expressed doubts about such a move, saying it could lead to renewed U.S.-PLO contacts and step up the pressure on Israel to have direct talks with the PLO. AL-AHRAM says these are strange doubts, because Rabin cannot prevent dialogue between Washington and the PLO once those two sides decide to open such a dialogue, as they did before. The paper notes that Rabin, if he wants, can reject any external pressure to negotiate with the PLO. Why did Rabin change his mind about allowing contacts with the PLO? And what is the future of the talks if the deadlock continues? Israel is at a watershed and needs historic leadership, the paper says.

Elsewhere, Rabin also remarked that Israel's security is a higher priority than peace, AL-AHRAM notes. It seems Rabin is not yet convinced that Israel's true security and true peace are two faces of the same coin.

Daily Calls for Return of Islands to UAE

NC0110073492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Cairo, 1 Oct (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM has demanded that Iran turn over the three islands—Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al- Sughra, and Abu Musa—to the legitimate owners, the United Arab Emirates [UAE], or refer the issue to the International Court of Justice [ICJ] for a final decision over this dispute.

In its editorial, the paper says that the UAE-Iran negotiations over the islands failed because Iran refused to discuss its occupation of the islands and rejected referring the issue to the ICJ. AL-AHRAM says: Clearly, had Iran any proof of rights to the UAE islands, it would not have refused to refer the issue to the ICJ. This refusal, the paper adds, confirms the UAE's right of sovereignty over these islands.

The paper concludes: If Iran really wishes to reshape its ties on cooperation and on peaceful coexistence with the Arab countries, it must return the Arab islands to the legitimate owners, the UAE.

Abu Hammad Crowds Attack Police Station

NC3009160492 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 27 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by Ahmad Musa]

[Excerpts] The city of Abu Hammad in the al-Sharqiyah Governorate was the scene of serious riots yesterday evening. Citizens threw stones and bricks at the police station and set fire to seven cars parked inside. Fifteen people, including the station chief and his deputy, were injured in the incidents, which followed rumors that a citizen from the city was killed inside the police station. Security authorities immediately sent more than 2,000 antiriot and Central Security officers and soldiers to the scene. The force sealed off nearby roads and imposed a curfew. Until early this morning, the crowds were still throwing stones and bricks at the forces and their vehicles. The security forces arrested 15 troublemakers, and 50 others are being sought. The Abu Hammad prosecutor begins investigations today.

The violence erupted Saturday evening after a rumor that Mahmud Bura'i, a worker at the city's bakery, was beaten to death while being interrogated by an officer at the police station. Dozens of people then rushed to the police station, pelting it with stones and setting fires to cars inside. According to Interior Ministry sources, the demonstrators tried to burn the station and kill the concerned officer. But the station chief, Colonel Muhammad Najib, and his deputy, confronted them, and both men were injured. The chief then ordered troops to protect the station from sabotage and to counter the troublemakers. [passage omitted]

The police used tear gas to disperse the demonstrators and prevent further trouble between the crowds and the police. Fifteen citizens were injured in the clashes; they were taken to the general hospital in al-Zaqaziq. The general prosecution will ask the police station's chief about the details.

[Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic on 28 September publishes on page seven the approximately 300-word "text" of an Interior Ministry statement on the riots. The statement explains that the citizen Mahmud Bura'i had died at his home. The statement says that "when some rioters fired gunshots, the police were forced to disperse the crowd and arrest its leaders." The statement adds: "The Interior Ministry stresses that it will not allow any violation of legitimacy and law, and it appeals to citizens not to believe any tendentious rumors."]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Loyalty Day Speech Lambastes Embargo

LD0110011592 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2111 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Speech by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at ceremony marking fourth annual Loyalty Day celebration in Surt—live]

[Excerpts] I was hoping to be able to personally hand out the awards to those who have been honored. Instead, allow me to extend my congratulations to all those who have been honored by their people and by their revolution. However, I would like to repeat, on this occasion, what I have already asserted before on similar occasions. [applause] [passage omitted]

We should understand that there was not much compassion for creators, pioneers, and for those who were able to open new horizons before humanity throughout

human history, because humans could not see such a horizon or could discern that whatever they were creating was good for their future. And that was why they oppressed them. However, whoever is oppressing the Libyan people today will regret it tomorrow, because he should know that the Libyan people are pioneers among people, are the teachers of other people, and that the Green Book is the guide for emancipation. [applause] They should know, furthermore, that humanity as a whole will one day choose the Jamahiriyah system; Jamahiriyahs will be established everywhere in the world, notwithstanding their current jokes about it.

Nevertheless, you have, on this occasion, honored representatives of friendly and fraternal people, to be precise, of countries which are currently members of the UN Security Council. Of course, the Security Council has passed two resolutions; the first one was numbered 708 ... [someone in the audience corrects him] 731.

Of course, one should try to understand how Resolutions Nos. 731 and 738 have been reached, as well as No. 48 [as heard]. If we try to understand how such resoltuions are reached, we would expose the Security Council and the United Nations, because if such a resolution had been passed against it, we would also find dozens of resolutions that have been passed against the Israelis, who have declined to implement them.

So, how did we reach No. 731? We reached such a number because there might be 100 resolutions out there. There might have been, say, some 600 resolutions before. Why have their numbers swollen to 700 resolutions? Because there are 100 resolutions passed by that Council, but they have been frozen and they have refused to implement them; nothing has ever been done against them. [sentence as heard] Well, we do not have to transform people into children to be able to tell them that the Security Council is not a true one which has not been acting in accordance with the UN Charter. We cannot preach to them about the United Nations and about equality between peoples as the Charter stipulates.

No, this is a clear violation of the so-called UN Charter and a bias against us.

And this is what has led Arabs to protest against the Security Council resolution and rally behind the Libyan people, because they know that the Libyan people are victims of an act of aggression.

Nevertheless, our sacrifices are similar to Jesus'; we are crucifying ourselves for the sake of humanity and for the sake of other peoples. We are trying to give them emancipation; they should know that. And whether they like it or not, we are intellectually much better then they. [member of audience interrupts with shouts of praise]

This first resolution—I am not sure about its number—Resolution 31, Resolution 931, was issued anonymously, and naturally there was in it an injustice, and a wrong was done to the Libyan people and is completely false, but naturally all the members of the UN Security Council approved it. But in reality, the members of the UN Security Council were fooled and threatened until they chose the lesser of the two evils according to their statements at the Council. They were presented with falsified justifications that Libya was really connected with UTA, Pan-Am, and Lockerbie. The members of the Security Council were put in an atmosphere in which the idea that Libya really carried out those acts was expressed. That was naturally a falsification accompanied with the threat, which is: Either you adopt a decision, or we, the states concerned, will make a decision ourselves. They thus chose the lesser of two evils.

After that and as result of the first resolution, there was another one, i.e. Resolution 748, which imposed an air blockade and an arms embargo, that Libya would no longer buy weapons and nobody would sell her weapons. Naturally, these things have nothing to do with each other.

What is the relationship of aircraft transporting travelers and normal human beings from one region to another with Libya and the world and this incident, even if this were carried out by a Libyan? What is the relationship with this issue, even if a Libyan carried it out? Let us assume for the sake of argument that a Libyan carried out Lockerbie. What is the relationship with travellers from all parts of the world, from India to Australia to Ireland, what have they got to do with this issue? They have to travel to Libya and come back from it. What is the relationship between the other Libyans and this issue?

An arms embargo against Libya was adopted. This is another issue; it unveils other intentions. If there are people who committed a crime, this is an ordinary civilian crime against civil aviation, which is completely clear in the Montreal treaty of 1974 or 1972. What? [member of audience tells him that the correct date is 1971]

It was issued in 1971 and was signed by Libya and most members of the international community. It says that whoever commits a crime against civil aviation, such as blowing up this Pan-Am, UTA, or other company's aircraft, is tried, either in the country where he is, or in the country owning the aircraft, or in the country where the incident took place. We have three countries: Libya, Britain, and the United States. The Libyans who were accused are in Libya. We are still maintaining the innocence of the Libyans and believe that this is an injustice and a hostility, and Libyans have nothing to do with a plane which took off in Frankfurt and fell in Britain. We hope that all planes take off from Frankfurt and fall in Britain. What have we got to do with them?

Are we responsible for the safety of European planes, or are we an insurance company for European planes? What have we got to do with planes which took off and fell in their countries? Yet, we accepted the charge sheets, and they told us: You have two accused of having something to do with this. They did not even say that

they blew up the plane; it is possible that they have something to do with the incident. The Montreal treaty says those two should be tried, either in the country where they are, or in the country where the incident took place, or in the country owning the plane. The accused are in Libya. When they are tried in Libya, this does not infringe on the Montreal treaty. This is in full harmony with it.

Holding the trial in Libya means the implementation of the Montreal agreement. It is arbitrary for you to ask that they should not be put on trial in Libya, because the agreement says this: Well, if they were handed over to the country where the incident took place or the country owning the plane, this is permissible. Or if they were in another place and they were apprehended and tried in the place where they committed the incident or the country which owns the plane, this is also permissible. But since they are present in a country, they should be tried in the country. This is what the Montreal agreement says.

This subject has no relation to the embargo on arms to Libya. It has exposed other intentions. It has revealed a conspiracy against the Libyan people, and a violation of Article 51, stipulating the right to self-defense by every people. The right to self-defense in this age is meant to be by means of sticks or stones. They have developed the right of self-defense to include missiles and nuclear bombs. They consider all these means as self-defense. Well then, when America manufactures nuclear bombs or Russia manufactures nuclear bombs for that matter, what do they say? Do they say they are for offensive and aggressive objectives? No. They say they are manufactured for deterrence purposes and self-defense. They even have called it nuclear deterrence. Deterrence does not mean aggression or attack. Do you deter someone who is leaning against you [as heard]?

They even included the nuclear bomb within the means of self-defense; a nuclear deterrence force. A deterrence against someone who leans against you.

Deterrence is known in our language. You deter someone who is leaning against you. In this case, he is leaning against you with its force and is threatening you; therefore, you deter him. In this case, you are not unjust or an aggressor. If you have a nuclear bomb, it is a deterrence, or a ballistic missile is also a deterrence. These missiles have become a means for self-defense. When you ban Libya from having machine guns or rifles or tanks, you are actually depriving it of the right of self-defense, and this is a clear violation of Article 51 of the UN Charter.

For this reason, you have appreciated the attitude of the people's federations in the Arab world, the Arab governments, and the international organizations, because all of them sympathized with the Libyan people and realized that the Libyan people were treated unfairly and were targeted and put in the dock unjustly and offensively. India, which comprises a third of the world's population, and China, which actually constitutes one third of the world's population, both constituting half of the world's population [as heard], both countries in addition to Morocco, Zimbabwe, and Cape Verde, all of which are members of the Security Council, expressed their indignation when Resolution 748 was introduced. They said the case has become a felony, and we cannot join you in deciding that this country should be denied the right to self-defense and be banned from buying arms as from today and nobody should sell it arms. What has all this got to do with the original case?

If there were people who are accused, then we can examine how to try them. Look into the treaty of Montreal and see its provisions.

China, India, Morocco, Zimbabwe, and Cape Verde, which are still members of the Security Council, have expressed their rejection and announced they could not agree on the second resolution. [applause] [passage omitted]

They said: We cannot agree to an air embargo against Libya. It would mean preventing people from contacting one another. Travelers coming to Libya or leaving it, foreign laborers returning home, or Libyans going abroad or having been somewhere in the world and wanting to return—why does this matter concern them? How can we punish the whole world on account of this matter?

For this reason, China, India, Morocco, Zimbabwe, and Cape Verde deserved the appreciation of the Libyan people. They have already been honored through their representatives. [applause]

I hope that this number grows, and the number of those who deserve to be honored increases each year. This is because this shows that the Libyan people are good doers and the number of those who would be honored and who are sincere people are on the increase each year.

Being unpatriotic, a traitor, or complacent, fraudulent, or deceitful—all these bad attributes are continuously on the retreat, until one day they will disappear and each citizen will become one of those who is honored and who deserves to be appreciated. [passage omitted]

A society like this has its own traditions and customs, even if it is underdeveloped; we see how Libyans have been offering their own daughters to the Military Academy for Girls so that they graduate as officers [applause], and afterward volunteer for the Revolutionary Guard, side by side with the young men.

Today, we have Libyan girls who have volunteered as soldiers and pilots, girls who are in tank crews and carry rifles. In fact, we have, especially in this field, a sacred march of women on the positions that used to be forbidden to them and that used to be monopolized and where we never dreamed of having them. [passage omitted]

These families actually offered or allowed their daughters to wear boots and the harsh military uniforms and steel helmets and to carry a rifle—this is really a thing that is embarrassing, if one does not appreciate it in front of the people. [applause] [passage omitted]

It is not only student women officers and conscripts and guards who should be honored. Those in schools should also be honored. [passage omitted] Whoever thought a girl could walk the street wearing boots and a military training uniform, while her parents allowed her to do so and are proud of her? Not only this, but she is also proud of it. This is considered a revolution. It deserves to be appreciated and admired. [applause]

I would have liked to personally visit every home who sends a girl to school or the academy to wear a military uniform and salute the family and honor it and present it with a medal. But, of course, this is not possible. But these words of mine can be considered as a medal and an appreciation of them, and they should be told that we are aware of them; we are not oblivious to them. We are full of admiration to see our folks and our people and families having no hesitation to shoulder the responsibilities and duties and the dangerous tasks required by the homeland and by this stage. [passage omitted]

People's Congresses Debate Decentralization

LD3009170592 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 29 Sep (JANA)—The basic people's congresses are these days engaged in discussion of a new concept for the Great Jamahiriyah's administrative structure.

From the discussion, which took place within the people's congresses, it transpired that the proposed structure will be based on a division of the Jamahiriyah into small communes or localities [mahallat] the number of which will reach 1,500. The communes will be self-managed as administrative units and will hold full powers to reach decisions about administering their local and adminstrative affairs and services through a people's congress and a people's committee which will comprise various service sectors. Each commune will have its own special budget and will be able to exercise its people's authority in terms of making and implementing decisions within the context of a jamahiri system. This will constitute an advanced step toward destroying [word indistinct] and will in return extend powers horizontally and lower them vertically down to the base as far as possible. [passage omitted]

[Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic at 1230 GMT on 30 September provides the following related report: "The people's congresses of the branches of the municipalities of the Great Jamahiriyah this evening will begin their meetings to formulate the resolutions of the basic people's congresses adopted at their first session for 1402 after the death of the prophet, corresponding to 1992. The basic people's congresses concluded their meetings yesterday after a responsible debate on the conception of the new administrative structure of the Great Jamahiriyah.

["This conception, which came as an implementation of the resolutions of the basic people's congresses formulated by the General People's Congress at its last session, is aimed at establishing a unique jamahiri administrative system whereby the Great Jamahiriyah will be divided into about 1,500 small communes which will be self-managed administrative units each of which will exercise power through its own people's congress and people's committee. The latter will be in charge of various service and production sectors, and in so doing it will have the same prerogatives as that now held by the General People's Committee. Thus, the people's power will have made a step forward toward eliminaton of centralization and any obstacles likely to impede the implementation of the decisions of the masses, so that the administrative system may become in harmony with the popular revolution."]

Sudan

SPLA Founder Garang Reportedly Overthrown

AB2909170792 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 29 Sep 92

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Reports coming out of southern Sudan today say that John Garang, founder of the SPLA [Sudan People's Liberation Army] rebel movement, has lost out in a battle with his number two, Commander William Nyuan Bany, at (Panyi Khawra) in eastern Equatoria. The reports come from the Nasir faction of the SPLA, which broke away in August last year after a dispute over secession for southern Sudan, but has recently been trying to mend fences with Garang. The Nasir faction says they have received a message from Commander William Nyuan saying that he has taken over and given details of what happened at (Panyi Khawra) yesterday. On the line to Nairobi, Tom Potier asked (Ashaldine), a spokesman for the Nasir faction, what his information was:

[Begin recording] [(Ashaldine)] [words indistinct] (Panyi Khawra) and Amit in eastern Equatoria, that is very near to the Ugandan border in which so many people have lost their lives.

[Potier] But John Garang is presumably disputing this alleged takeover by Nyuan of the SPLA.

[(Ashaldine)] What Garang is saying, as usual, is trying to play down the (?whole thing because up until now) he has not been killed, or maybe his relative [words indistinct] his life. But Nyuan categorically has addressed a radio massage to all the SPLA units in southern Sudan, in the Blue Nile and in southern Kurdufan that with

effect from yesterday, the 28th of September, he is the leader of the movement and not, and not, and I repeat, and not John Garang.

[Potier] But there have been reports of John Garang being overthrown before, and he has managed to stay in place. Why should we believe this latest report?

[(Ashaldine)] The latest report, definitely we want to believe it, because it has taken place in a very [words indistinct] in his hiding place. You know, the Nasir coup was announced in Nasir, which was at a distance of something like 700 km away from the place where Garang was, and that was why it was not effective. This time it is going to be effective because all the forces of our positions are hereby called upon by Commander William to converge on Garang once and for all.

[Potier] A lot of people listening to this are just going to say that is propaganda from the Nasir faction.

[(Ashaldine)] Well, each one is entitled to his opinion, but what I am trying to relate to you is not being just propaganda, but it is the real situation on the ground where Garang will not be in southern Sudan.

[Potier] And what is the source of your information?

[(Ashaldine)] The source of our information is (?exactly) from Commander William.

[Potier] And how have you managed to be in contact with Commander William?

[(Ashaldine)] Well, we have receivers.

[Potier] So it is a radio message that he sent to you?

[(Ashaldine)] That is it. He sent us a radio message dated yesterday.

[Potier] But until now, he has been one of your enemies, has he not?

[(Ashaldine)] William, he has not at all been our enemy because at one stage he was misled by Garang, but later on, especially by the time he went to Abuja, he changed his hat, and he came in to be for the unity of the people of the South.

[Potier] Would it not have been better to have waited until you produced some of William's followers to have corroborated this report of yours?

[(Ashaldine)] Not at all, not at all. A report of this kind, you see, cannot be done in that manner because it is something historical.

[Potier] And where exactly was this battle?

[(Ashaldine)] The battle was between (Panyi Khawra) and Amit.

[Potier] Do you have an idea what kind of weapons were used?

[(Ashaldine)] All weapons were used. Mortars were used, (?artillery) organs were used. All manner and all types of weapons were used in that battle of yesterday. [end recording]

Garang Denies Ouster

AB3009172492 Paris AFP in English 1644 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Kampala, 30 Sept (AFP)—Rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army leader John Garang has dismissed reports of his ouster from SPLA leadership by his deputy commander William Nyuan Bany as "fake and an illusion".

Garang, in Kampala for talks with Nigerian Interior Minister Tongi Olagunjo on a resumption of Sudanese peace talks at the end of October, told journalists on Wednesday, "I am still chairman and commander in chief of the SPLA and the military situation in the rebel force is under control."

A relief worker and a Norwegian journalist reported killed in southern Sudan on Tuesday died during one of the heavy battles between forces loyal to him and those of his erstwhile deputy, Garang added.

He told journalists that during Nyuan's defection bid, an unknown number of people, both rebels and civilians, were killed in a battle between forces loyal to the rival leaders.

He said Nyuan Bany's men ran into relief workers and a Norwegian journalist during one of the battles and his troops later found the two dead bodies. He could not, however, tell the fate of the other relief workers still under captivity of the rebels.

Garang explained that Nyuan Bany, whom he described as an illiterate despite having been his deputy, had been plotting to assassinate him, but did not say what led to the break in ranks.

Garang said that Nyuan Bany had been sent to Nairobi to convince the Nasir faction of the SPLA, led by Commanders Riak Machar and Lam Akol, to persuade them to rejoin the mainstream faction forces and to delink from what he termed the National Islamic Front (NIF) Khartoum government when, he said, was using them to break up the SPLA.

"Instead of going to Nairobi, Nyuan Bany fled his military base at a place called Pageri, east of the Nile bank in the Torit area, with 100 of his men," Garang said, but another 150 SPLA soldiers refused to defect with him.

The rebel leader, who looked composed, explained that after fleeing 50 kilometres (30 miles) from Pageri, Nyuan Bany erected a radio trans-receiver and sent out messages claiming his takeover.

"We are converging on him and in the next 12 hours, I assure you he will be finished," Garang said.

In the same breath, he denounced the military junta in Khartoum for creating rifts within the SPLA by bribing the Nasir faction leaders and their supporters.

"We know the Nasir faction held secret talks with Dr. Ali al-Haj of the NIF in Frankfurt, Germany, where it was agreed that they would join hands against us," he said.

He further claimed that another meeting between the Nasir faction and the Sudanese government had taken place in Amsterdam, but did not give the dates of the two meetings.

Since the split in rebel ranks appeared in August last year, the SPLA, which has been fighting since 1983 to free the mainly Christian and animist south from Islamic domination by the Arabised north, has lost more than 10 strategic garrison towns to government troops, including Garang faction's Torit headquarters.

SPLA Factions Comment

EA3009202792 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Reports have said that the conflict within the rebel movement has entered a dangerous stage in that violent clashes and that an armed attack occurred within John Garang's group.

The group of the rebel Garang has issued a statement in which it confirmed that William Nyuan, who used to occupy the post of deputy to Garang in the movement, has joined the Nasir group of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army and has a group of more than 100 people, together with a number of heavy and armored vehicles.

The statement pointed out that William Nyuan has 250 bodyguards. The statement accused William Nyuan of attempting to assassinate Garang after his [Garang's] success in releasing some political prisoners. They are: (Kayso Kadak Bol), Arok Thuon Arok, Joseph Malath, Mabior Marier, and Faustino Atem Gualdit, who crossed the borders into Uganda and Zaire.

The statement also accused William Nyuan of killing a number of foreigners working on relief operations, among them a Norwegian journalist.

On the other hand, the Nasir group issued a statement in which it confirmed that John Garang had attacked the forces of his deputy and killed a number of soldiers and a UN relief worker. The statement attributed these developments within the ranks of the movement to Garang's opposition to all the efforts made to unify the ranks of the movement, and also to the fact that John Garang does not believe in negotiations.

SPLA Rebels Accuse Government of Detentions

EA2909210892 Nairobi KTN Television in English 1600 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] In Sudan, rebels of the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] have accused government forces of detaining more than 600 non-Arab Nubi [Nubian] people in military barracks in northern Kordofan region for allegedly sympathizing with them. Earlier reports from London said Sudanese authorities have moved more than 40,000 Nubi people from their mountain villages to camps in northern Kordofan.

Former Army Chief on Tactics in Opposition

PM2909142592 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 25 Sep 92 pp 28-29

[Interview with General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, former commander of the Sudanese Armed Forces and representative of the Armed Forces' Legitimate Command in the opposition Democratic National Grouping, by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Ajjaj] To begin with, the observation that deserves attention is the limited nature of the Sudanese opposition's role and the fragility of its presence, because it had given observers the impression that it would topple the Al-Bashir regime the following day, but that day never materialized. Actually the regime is strengthening by the day.

['Ali] Actually we should acknowledge that we do not believe that opposition consists in staging demonstrations and causing disturbances. Or that it is just one action conducted inside the country. Opposition is an integrated political-military action which deals with all aspects of the Sudanese issue in a gradual way. If we agree on this principle, we will find that the Sudanese opposition drew up the foundations in the National Grouping's charter, the establishment of the transitional government, and the detailed programs in its Addis Ababa conference in March 1991. It was a successful conference which included the popular movement and the Legitimate Command. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] Let us agree that the aim of any opposition is to seize power—which can only be done by toppling the existing regime. Is that not the Sudanese oppostion's aim?

['Ali] The question of toppling the regime is not an aim in itself. It is a means to secure for Sudan the objectives sought by every Sudanese, that is freedom, justice, and democracy. And to resolve Sudan's complex problems resulting from cultural, religious, and ethnic diversity. Without doubt these are important objectives which must be prepared for carefully and slowly. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] How do you view current conditions in Sudan?

['Ali] Sudan under the Al-Bashir regime is heading toward an abyss, and this seems to have become characteristic of conditions in the Horn of Africa. If we look carefully at what is happening in Ethiopia and Somalia, we will find that Ethiopia is only one step from becoming another Somalia. And Sudan's present conditions are moving in the same destructive direction—which leaves it two steps from becoming a third Somalia. Civil war is continuing in Sudan, and there are heavy losses among the one people in the north and south. And the [National Islamic] Front's regime is continuing its political and media positions against all brothers in the Arab and Islamic states.

['Ajjaj] Do you have a specific explanation for the present regime's continuation in Sudan?

['Ali] The explanation is the Islamic Front party's use of the "necessity logic" according to its own interpretation in its political, economic, military, and security dealings. For example, they worked with the opposition against Numayri until they decided—on the basis of the necessity logic—to join Numayri and support him. They used the same logic to withdraw in the last minutes of the contest between the opposition and Numayri. Then it followed the democratic plurality march brilliantly and exploited everything permissible and possible to undermine democracy. This experience has enabled the Front to read what the opposition is doing against the Al-Bashir regime. This is why it is implementing—with Iranian experts' help—a working program designed to paralyze the opposition, especially in the field of terrorism and the terrorizing of citizens with Iranian participation [sentence as published]. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] Talking of Iran, we recall that Faruq Abu 'Isa, secretary of the Arab Lawyers Union and a Sudanese opposition leader, revealed the existence of lists of Iranian experts helping the regime. Why have these lists not been announced until now?

['Ali] The Grouping can announce them, and this will take place soon in consultation with all the Grouping's factions. However, all the lists which include Iranians, Lebanese, and other nationalities are handed to the quarters concerned inside and outside the region, especially the names of the fundamentalists being trained in Sudan to foster extremist expansion. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] What is the truth about the distribution of a speech recorded by you and addressed to the Sudanese Armed Forces?

['Ali] That move is part of the legitimate leaders' moves. The Sudanese people in all their sectors have a role in resisting the regime. The resistance inside the country expresses itself in various ways. And that regime knows nothing except force.

['Ajjaj] You said that the tapes are part of a greater whole. What are the features of the legitimate forces' strategy for toppling the regime?

['Ali] The Democratic Grouping's charter is very clear with regard to tackling that question. It has endorsed political and military struggle to remove the regime. It has also urged all Sudan's sons to fulfill this national duty. Part of the Legitimate Command's political strategy is media action based on exposing the regime's various policies and actions inside and outside the country, using all means available, including tapes, to enlighten people and urge them to continue struggle. It is a method dictated by the need to enable people inside the country to hear the voice of the opposition abroad and to break the regime's media dominance, which makes no voice louder than the Front's. Generally, these tapes have alarmed the regime greatly. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Foreign Minister Addresses UN General Assembly

JN3009172392 Manama WAKH in English 1525 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Excerpt] New York, Sept 30 (GNA)—The Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah called on the United Nations to cooperate with the appropriate regional organisations to use preventive diplomacy as a means to prevent the eruption of tragic ethnic and barren border hostilities, the occupation by force of other peoples' territories or the changing of existing boundries between states.

Addressing the 47th session of the United Nations General Assembly last night, Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak said "our responsibility lies in maintaining the momentum generated by the new international climate wherein the respect for international legitimacy is upheld, with a view to achieving stability in delicate regional situation, in the forefront of which is the Gulf area.

"In this respect, the State of Bahrain reiterates its demand that the resolutions relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait be complied with," he said.

He said the State of Bahrain has been following with deep concern the recent unfortunate developments in the Gulf area as a result of actions taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran on the island of Abu Musa.

He emphasized the sovereignty and territorial rights of the United Arab Emirates, and our adherence to the good neighborhood principle, and seek to free the area from any other tension, we call up on the Islamic Republic of Iran to respect the memorandum of understanding which it has signed with the United Arab Emirates.

He said Bahrain welcomes the signs that may lead to a just settlement of the question of Palestine in particular and of the Middle East conflict in general. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Daily Says 'Arafat Statement on Iraq 'Too Late'

LD3009110192 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0805 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Kuwait City, 30 September 1992, KUNA—A Kuwaiti newspaper excluded today the possibility that the statements by the PLO Executive Committee chairman on how the Palestinians had been misled by the promises of the Iraqi regime would dispel the world's indignation or replace the inevitable break with the policy of "laying the past to rest."

AL-RA'YU AL-'AM expressed the view that those statements came much too late as an attempt to feel the pulse of the public in the Gulf and that such an attempt would not succeed. It said that 'Arafat "has himself to admit to being misled by his friend, who had assumed the name of Saladin." It asserted that the policy of laying the past to rest, as pursued by regimes which had supported the Iraqi aggression, was now utterly impossible to accept, unless it were accompanied by full admission by those regimes to the conspiratorial role they had played against Kuwait, the GCC, and their peoples.

Qatar

Saudi Troops Attack Border Post; 2 Killed

NC3009200492 Paris AFP in English 1927 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Doha, Sept 30 (AFP)—Saudi Arabian troops attacked a Qatari border post Wednesday, killing two soldiers and capturing a third, a Qatari military spokesman said.

The attack took place at 2:30 p.m. (1130 GMT) against the border station at Al-Khaffus, the spokesman said according to the Qatari News Agency (QNA).

He said one of the dead was a Qatari warrant officer. The other one was an Egyptian soldier serving with the local armed forces. An earlier report said the two were Qatari soldiers.

The border station and the equipment there were severely damaged, he added.

QNA reported later that Qatari Crown Prince Shaykh Hamad Bin Khalifah Al Thani had received a message from Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, but the contents were not revealed.

Qatar is closely allied with Saudi Arabia, with which it signed a bilateral defence pact in 1982, and is usually considered to be one of the most moderate Arab countries.

It is currently locked in a territorial dispute with Bahrain over a string of islands in the Gulf.

Saudi King Sends Message

LD3009214392 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 2100 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the deputy amir and heir apparent, has received a verbal message from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques and king of the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The message was conveyed by His Excellency 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Hamad al-Shibayli, ambassador of the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the State of Qatar, during his audience by the deputy amir and heir apparent at the latter's office at the amir's office at 2030 [1730 GMT] this evening.

Government Severs Border Pact

NC0110113292 Paris AFP in English 1101 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Doha, Oct 1 (AFP)—Qatar decided on Thursday to unilaterally sever a 1965 border agreement with Saudi Arabia in the wake of a bloody clash in a disputed region, the QATARI NEWS AGENCY said.

An emergency cabinet meeting chaired by Crown Prince Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani called for negotiations with Riyadh to demarcate their common border.

Qatar said Saudi troops killed two soldiers and captured a third in an attack on a border post Wednesday. Saudi Arabia said the incident was a clash between bedouin tribesmen which left two Qataris dead and one Saudi.

Saudi Arabia

Source Calls Border Shooting Bedouin Clash

LD3009225992 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2215 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Jeddah, 30 Sep (SPA)—A responsible source has made a statement to SPA this evening in which he said:

Radio Qatar broadcast this evening a statement by a responsible source at the General Command of the Armed Forces of Qatar saying that a Saudi military force had carried out an attack on a Qatari post which resulted in the martyrdom of two soldiers of the Qatari armed forces.

The source added: This report, which referred to a Saudi military force, has no basis of truth whatsoever. The truth of the incident can be summed up in noting that there was an exchange of shooting between bedouins at a location inside Saudi territory resulting in the death of two Qataris and one Saudi. Another Saudi was injured as a result of the shooting, which was started by the Qataris.

The source said: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia instructed the ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques in Doha to immediately convey what had happened to the Qatari authorities, while the Saudi authorities concerned began an investigation to obtain the details of the incident and to take the necessary measures in light of the results of the investigations.

Sa'ud Addresses UN, Supports UAE on Abu Musa

LD3009165292 Riyadh SPA in English 1213 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] New York, Sept 30, SPA—The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has proposed a radical change in the understanding of the role of the United Nations from just a troubleshooter and peace-keeper to a positive element of peace-making and peace-enforcing body on bases of the new international order which was stemmed from the principles of the United Nations.

Addressing the 47 session of UN's General Assembly on Tuesday night, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, said the international community should get the lessons of the past to draw the future plans for establishment of global peace, stability and prosperity.

Prince Sa'ud congratulated the new president of the assembly, welcomed new members and highlighted the efforts being made by the secretary general Dr. Butrus-Ghali and his ancestor de Cuellar to realise the noble objectives of the organization.

"Amid existing international circumstances, ever changing and dynamic situations, we are following-up with grave concern the trends that would materialize what is known as the new international order, the rules of which are based on the principles of the United Nations, the international legitimacy that renounce force as a means to settle disputes. We really need to reconsider our understanding of the role undertaken by the U.N., to promote our methods and practices to harmonize with the cardinal principles of this organization which was set-up to dedicate cooperation and understanding between the nations instead of wars and devastation, to realise development, preserve the dignity of man and to establish universal peace, stability and prosperity," Prince Sa'ud said.

The Sa'udi foreign minister welcomed the proposals made by the secretary general to reinforce the role and effectiveness of the organization.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal cited the peace plan, proposed by the secretary general as worthy of being carefully studied as a guide to reach a suitable formula to improve the performance of the U.N. and to introduce structural reforms if that proves necessary.

He expressed regret on dangers that threaten peace and stability in many parts of the world and called on member states to cooperate with the efforts being made by the U.N. to settle conflicts worldwide.

"The United Nations had proven capability of undertaking such role when it firmly repulsed the Iraqi aggression of neighbouring Kuwait, that peaceful and small state in size, with significant role in international arena, and succeeded to liberate Kuwait from the vicious aggression and restore legitimacy over there," Prince Sa'ud said.

Prince Sa'ud expressed concern that the Iraqi regime has returned to the past threats and false claims over Kuwait, the same way it was repeating on the eve of the aggression and said the Iraqi regime has continued to defy the resolutions of the UN's Security Council and give itself the right to destroy and humiliate the Iraqi people.

"We are absolutely convinced that the only way to evade the region instability and to alleviate the hardship of the Iraqi people is the complete enforcement of the resolutions of the Security Council which mirrors the will of the entire international community," he said.

Prince Sa'ud also regretted the recent announcement of the U.A.E. that efforts with Iran to reach a peaceful and amicable settlement whereby the former would regain its full sovereignty over the islands of Abu Musa and the Tomb islands were failed. He expressed the Kingdom's full support to the UAE and its demands that Iran should abolish the measures which it undertook unilaterally and try to resolve the dispute through negotiation and in compliance to international legitimacy and laws.

Citing the chronic crisis of the Middle East, Prince Sa'ud told the assembly that time has come for establishment of peace and stability in the region and save the potentialities of the region for development and prosperity of the entire mankind.

To realise the targeted objectives, we should give top priority for the elimination of mass-destruction weapons from the Middle East, Prince Sa'ud said and welcomed the completion of the Assembly's debate over the conclusion of non-proliferation of chemical weapons convention in the framework of the Kingdom's efforts to eliminate all kinds of the mass destruction weapons from the region.

Prince Sa'ud assured the international community that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has honoured its commitment under the agreement of nuclear arms non-proliferation which it signed and he called on other countries of the region, including Israel, to respect the two conventions for realisation of the required power balance for establishment of peace and security in the region.

Prince Sa'ud reiterated the sincere desire of the Arab states on lasting, just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East as reflected by their positive participation in the current peace talks.

While extending full support to the current peace process, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia believes that the real peace could not be obtained unless Israeli pullout from all occupied Arab territories including Al-Quds [Jerusalem] and finding an acceptable and lasting settlement or the Palestinian question, he said and added that the success of the peace process is highly depending on an Israeli firm commitment over the resolutions of the United Nations and respect of the international legitimacy.

Referring to the situation in Lebanon, Prince Sa'ud expressed satisfaction on the measures undertaken by the Lebanese Government for the implementation of the Taif agreement and vowed that the Kingdom would continue its support for these efforts.

He urged the international community to advocate peace and reconstruction process in Lebanon and undertake adequate measures for setting up an international fund for Lebanon and implementation of the Security Council Resolution 425 calling for the Israeli withdrawal for South Lebanon.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal welcomed the recent resolution of the General Assembly over the states of the demised Yugoslavia as a good step which would be followed by other steps to establish peace and stability in that part of the world.

Prince Sa'ud sharply denounced the genocidal war being waged by the Serbs against the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina and expressed regret and sorrow over the tragic situation and loss of lives triggered by the unjust war. He called for full implementation of the resolutions adopted by the London conference on former Yugoslavia and expressed regret that some resolutions were not put to force.

The government of custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz does not only demand guarantees for delivery of relief materials for the victims of the war, but also demands undertaking of all necessary measures to put an end to the genocidal and displacement war against the Bosnian people, enforcement of all international laws and conventions concerning the situation and demands that the Security Council should apply the measures authorized by the articles of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, including Article 42 and articles of the Geneva fourth convention as well.

The Saudi foreign minister regretted the tragic situation of the Somali people which was triggered by the devastated civil war and he enumerated the faithful political and humanitarian efforts made by the kingdom to contain the tragedy and realise national reconciliation over there. He expressed hope that international efforts would be intensified to ensure delivery of humanitarian aid for the victims of famine and called on the conflicting factions in Somalia to settle the dispute by peaceful means and give top priority for the overall national interest.

He lauded the 13-year struggle of the Afghan mujahideen which was enthroned by a brilliant victory and called the Afghan leaders and people to cooperate for normalization of matters in the country, to set-up a consolidated national unity and work hand-in-hand to reconstruct what has been destroyed by the war and to save the natural resources of the country for the welfare of the country.

Prince Sa'ud Al-Faysal reiterated the keen interest of the Kingdom for finding a peaceful settlement for the problem of Kashmir between Pakistan and India in line with the resolutions of the United Nations.

He expressed regret over the recent violent events witnessed recently by South Africa causing a serious setback in efforts underway to end the apartheid regime of Pretoria.

Nevertheless, Prince Sa'ud welcomed the on-going efforts for the resumption of UN-sponsored talks on elimination of the nefarious regime in South Africa.

Prince Sa'ud told the General Assembly that the positive changes that swept the international political arena will certainly accelerate the settlement of issues pertaining to economic development and environmental issues and will enable the developing countries to realise a better social and economic growth rates if they find positive cooperation from the part of the industrialist nations who should open their markets for the products of the developing countries and end protectionist measures and try to find solution of the problems of debts.

Prince Sa'ud confirmed anew the great concern being paid by the government of custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz on the situation of the world economy and cited with pride the constructive contribution of the Kingdom on the global debate to find collective solutions for environment and energy issues.

He expressed optimism over future chances of better social and economic development thanks to the end of the cold war, the progress made in disarmament and reduction of conventional weapons talks which he termed as a rare opportunity for enrolling the subsequent financial resources to tackle the problems of development and backward.

Our international community is heading towards a new historical and crucial era full of promises and challenges, it is our duty to set-up concrete and just bases that would demarcate the features of tomorrow, Prince Sa'ud said.

Iran's Envoy Discusses Developments in Gulf

LD3009113492 Tehran IRNA in English 1033 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Riyadh, Sept. 30, IRNA—Iran's ambassador to Riyadh Mohammad 'Ali Hadi here today outlined the Islamic republic's policy towards regional and international issues.

In a meeting with the Saudi Arabian minister of state for foreign affairs Shaykh Muhammad Ibrahim Masud, the two sides reviewed the latest developments in the Persian Gulf region and emphasized on the strengthening of the neighbourly relations and the need to expand bilateral and regional cooperation in economic and political grounds.

United Arab Emirates

Foreign Minister Comments on Disputed Islands

JN0110094992 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0705 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Excerpt] New York, 1 Oct (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates has stressed that the historical and geographical documents and facts confirm that sovereignty over the islands of Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa has always and still does belong to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. It also stressed that the Iranian military occupation of these islands has not changed their legal status.

The UAE said that in accordance with international law, occupation resulting from the use of force does not give the occupying state sovereignty over the occupied region regardless of time. This came in a speech delivered by UAE Foreign Minister Rashid Bin-'Abdallah al-Na'imi at the 47th session of the UN General Assembly last night. The UAE foreign minister said: The UAE is still ready to settle this issue peacefully in accordance with Article 22 of the UN Charter, taking into consideration the UAE's sovereignty over the three islands. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Salih Hints Saudi Arabia Behind Violence

PM3009135592 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 28 Sep 92 p 1

[Mahmud Ma'ruf report: "'Ali Salih Accuses Saudi Arabia of Being Behind Explosions"]

[Excerpt] Sanaa, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has accused foreign circles of being behind recent violent incidents and explosions designed to shake Yemen's stability. The Yemeni president hinted at the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia without naming it. He said it is the riyal that pays the hands which stage the incidents. He added it is not the Yemeni riyal, anyhow. The Yemeni capital, Sanaa, witnessed a series of explosions last week. One of them was aimed against prominent government figures like Yahya al-'Arashi and his house, Muhammad 'Abdallah Salih, the president's brother, and the U.S. Embassy in Sanaa.

The Yemeni president emphasized at a press conference yesterday that the aim of the explosions is to hit unity and democracy in Yemen and to prevent parliamentary elections scheduled for November from being held. He expected the severity of the explosions and violent incidents to increase as the election date gets closer. He said they [not further identified] want to arouse doubts in the country, create a crisis of confidence, and prevent Yemen from making the switch to constitutional legitimacy. [passage omitted]

Iranians Running Camp for Arab Afghan Volunteers

NC3009131992 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 28 Sep 92 p 7

[Text] Informed Arab sources told AL-SHIRA' that a camp for Arab volunteers in Afghanistan has been set up in the Sa'dah area of Yemen. The camp is supervised by Iranian trainers.

'Text' of Foreign Minister's Speech to the UN

JN0110073092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0405 GMT 1 Oct 92

["Text" of speech by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf to the UN General Assembly in New York on 30 September—read by announcer]

[Text] Mr. Chairman: I am pleased to extend my sincere congratulations to you on your election as chairman of the 47th session of the UN General Assembly. I am confident that your diplomatic expertise and rich experience will be devoted to ensure a successful session. I am also pleased to welcome the new states that have recently joined the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman, great hopes for the rise of a stable world that enjoys peace, stability, economic growth, justice, and equality for all have always been, and are still, living in our minds. But we wonder: Is the world community now closer to achieving these hopes?

The speedy and radical transformations the world has seen since 1988 are continuing. These developments and changes have taken the world situation to the threshold of a new phase, with many of its characteristics still unclear. Yet, we can say that despite the end of the ideological conflict that divided a major part of the world between two pacts, the Warsaw and NATO pacts, our world today is still unstable, witnessing new racial crises and military conflicts in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Concurrently, the economic crisis exacerbated to increase the suffering of the developing states that were overcome by famines unprecedented in modern history. Current signs indicate that the world is increasingly being split between a North and a South; a world that lacks equality, justice, and evenness between the rich, powerful countries in the North and the poor, weak countries in the South. These signs also herald the beginning of a new phase of the big power's dominance, not over the poor countries alone, but also over all international organizations, which will be used by these powers as a tool to execute their policies and serve their own interests.

Mr. Chairman, the challenges facing the developing countries make it incumbent on the United Nations to shoulder the responsibilities assigned to it by the Charter to guarantee international peace and security within the framework of a world order, in which the United Nations, through the collective will of its members, has an effective and influential role in protecting the sovereignty and independence of the member states, and in realizing the economic and social development that constitutes a principal challenge to the developing countries.

Yet the practical reality confirms to us that the United Nations, which still seeks to achieve these tasks, has been exposed to many factors obstructing its progress toward these hopes. The most prominent of these obstructions is the attempt by a state or a group of states to impose hegemony on the policies of the United Nations and its institutions. This is particularly clear in the case of what has been happening in the UN Security Council since the international transformations have assumed their accelerating new course. As a result of this hegemony, which the United States is leading and going too far with, the UN Security Council's resolutions and measures have been marked by double standards and selectivity in applying the provisions of the Charter. The Security Council thus departed from the Charter's spirit, text, and principles; from the provisions of international law; and from the principles of justice and fairness that call for finding a balance between the obligations and rights of every state. Undoubtedly, the imbalance in this equation will lead to dealing with matters on the basis of capability and chance. This will then become the rule, and behavior will be in accordance with this rule, and not on the basis of the established principles for relations between the Security Council and various states as set by the Charter, thus exposing regional and world peace and security to serious threats.

Mr. Chairman, what Iraq faced two years ago, and what it is facing now under the cover of so-called international legitimacy, is the most striking example of the double standards, selectivity, and imbalance between obligations and rights. The UN Security Council has deviated from the course of judging matters on the basis of the UN Charter. The UN Security Council resolutions have turned into political practices aimed at shaking the security and stability of a UN member state, starving its people, and barring medicine from reaching its sick people for the sake of serving declared political objectives totally unrelated to the letter and spirit of the UN Charter and the principles of international law.

In the name of international legitimacy, and under its cover, Iraq was exposed to a comprehensive war that resulted in the destruction of its economic installations and the infrastructures of its civil life in a manner unprecedented in contemporary history.

The motive behind this excessive and coercive use of armed force was the desire to return an entire nation to the pre-Industrial Revolution era, as Secretary Baker told Tariq 'Aziz in their meeting in Geneva on 9 January 1991. The studies and reports issued by the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and humanitarian organizations have shown the extent of destruction inflicted on Iraq as a result of this aggression and the subsequent huge losses due to the blockade and sanctions. There is no need to present the details of these reports, which were published as official UN documents prepared by persons who were charged with this task by the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman, despite all this encroachment on and injustice against Iraq, we earnestly and sincerely endeavored to honor our commitments toward the Security Council resolutions and cooperate with UN organs to implement what is required of Iraq in the various fields.

Many provocative practices were carried out by elements charged with the implementation of the Security Council resolutions. The objective of these practices was to obstruct Iraq's fulfillment of its commitments and to give the impression that Iraq was rejecting the Security Council resolutions, and then to set the stage for new military blows to Iraq as well as to obstruct any move to lift the unjust blockade imposed on it. We were able, however, to foil the attempt aimed at achieving this evil objective. All attempts aimed at creating crises between the United Nations and Iraq were contained. Iraq proved its full cooperation with the United Nations to achieve a sound and balanced implementation of the Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Chairman, while Iraq is endeavoring earnestly to fulfill its commitments under the Security Council resolutions, the Security Council has not taken any step to end the blockade or even to alleviate the economic cordon on the people of Iraq. The effects of this blockade have had serious dimensions on the daily life of all sectors of the Iraqi people.

The Security Council's insistence on not alleviating the comprehensive economic sanctions on Iraq shows that the Council does not adopt the rule of balance between commitments and rights. Instead, it yields to what is announced by officials from the countries that control the Council—that the blockade on Iraq will only be lifted after the development of its political system. We have a right to ask from this podium and to address our question to the entire world: Has the Security Council proceeded—in its dealings with a UN member—in accordance with the provisions of the UN Charter and international law and with the principles of justice and fairness, or has it succumbed to the political will of the forces controlling it and to what serves the interests of these forces before anything else?

Mr. Chairman, the current relationship between the Security Council and Iraq does not fall within the framework of implementing the Council resolutions, but within the framework of implementing the external objectives of a very limited number of countries. If such stands, adopted by countries that are led by trends imposed by America, are given a free hand, their serious harm will go beyond Iraq to other nations and go beyond the present time to the future.

Threatening campaigns under the guise of the UN Charter have continued so as to maintain the economic blockade and to deal new military blows in order to shake the political system and once again attack the basic economic and vital installations, which are still suffering from the first blow.

Mr. Chairman, another clear example of the injustice to which Iraq is being subjected within the framework of this relationship are the practices of the Sanctions Commission formed in accordance with Resolution No. 661/1990. The Commission is, in practice, following the veto rule despite the cover given to it that it work according to the general conformity of opinions. A review of the work of this commission—as communicated to the secretary general in official messages containing real examples—shows that the objection of one or sometimes two members of the commission is sufficient to obstruct any response to Iraq's basic needs, or even to ignore the special exceptions noted by the resolutions with regard to the basic civilian needs which cover food, electricity, agriculture, water, sewage, medical supplies, school supplies, and clothes.

Theoretically, Iraq was allowed to import food and medicine. Its funds, however, have been frozen for the past two years. It has not been allowed to export its oil or any other material to meet the basic humanitarian needs. Moreover, attempts are underway to completely seize Iraqi assets frozen abroad through a draft resolution currently presented to the Security Council. This draft resolution does not meet the minimum limit of what is allowed and what is legitimate even in light of the objectives defined by the draft resolution itself.

Iraq has dealt with the General Secretariat seriously and with good intentions to reach an agreement on exporting quantities of Iraqi oil and to use the revenues toward meeting the basic civilian needs and expenses of the United Nations. What prevented an agreement is the refusal of some countries at the Security Council to remove the humiliating political conditions from the contents of the agreement. These conditions are not at all related to the essence of the sought agreement.

Iraq is ready to tackle this issue in accordance with the following formula:

1. To allow Iraq to export oil and its byproducts for a net income of not less than $4 billion for a period of six months extendable for another period if the overall ban on the exportation of Iraqi oil is not lifted.

2. To deposit the resulting net revenues in a credit account opened by the United Nations to purchase foodstuffs, medicine, and basic civilian needs. Transactions related to their importation will be subject to the procedures of the committee in charge of Resolution 661.

3. The Security Council will name certain states to which purchases will be confined in accordance with the customary trading practices.

Iraq is ready to grant 5 percent of the net revenues of this process to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as a contribution to international relief aid in Somalia, to the Palestinian people through UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency], to Bosnia-Hercegovina, and other bodies within the framework of its humanitarian principles and view.

Mr. Chairman, the United Nations began humanitarian relief aid in April 1991 with simple and limited means to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people. It has become clear that countries that are hostile to Iraq interfered in

the program and took it as an excuse to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs. It was also clear that the program dealt with the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people in accordance with the will, intentions, and political plans of the countries extending the aid. This was attested to by some officials of the program.

Thus, in practice, the humanitarian program did not achieve the required effectiveness to realize its desired humanitarian objectives. Iraq stresses the need to place the UN humanitarian program within purely humanitarian frameworks and objectives, away from political considerations and the attempts to intervene in Iraq's domestic affairs. We are prepared to cooperate in that regard to realize any fair, humanitarian objective sought by the world organization.

Mr. Chairman, voices and allegations are now raised about the so-called violations of human rights in Iraq. The parties that launched the war against Iraq in the name of international legitimacy forget that what the people of Iraq have been exposed to, and are still exposed to because of measures taken by these parties themselves, is the most serious violation of human rights witnessed in the history of legitimacy in our time. I ask this world gathering: What can we call the dropping of 120,000 tonnes of explosives on the people of Iraq; the destruction of all of Iraq's vital economic installations; the murder of thousands of its children, young and old men, and women; and the destruction of defenseless civilian homes, schools, hospitals, baby milk plants, children's homes, and places of worship? Is this not a flagrant violation of human rights and disavowal of all ethical and humanitarian values and norms? Does this not contravene with the UN Charter and associated conventions?

The unfounded accusations directed against Iraq are based on lies, rumors, and falsehoods. They are not based on even the least possible objective, neutral, or scientific view. The motive behind this fabricated clamor over human rights is to serve the same political aims that were behind the launching of the military aggression against Iraq. These political aims are still dominating, seeking to maintain the economic blockade against Iraq, starve its people, and justify interference in Iraq's internal affairs with the aim of undermining its national unity.

The no-fly zone in southern Iraq, imposed by the whim of the United States, Britain, and France and—this time—not concealed by any of the UN covers, exemplies this flagrant aggressive policy to divide Iraq and not protect the civilians, as claimed by the Western colonialist states that imposed the blockade and that were themselves responsible for the killing of thousands of Iraqi civilians when their warplanes launched raids and dropped bombs equivalent to many nuclear bombs of the type that erased Hiroshima from the face of the earth. The same states are still imposing the embargo, which covers even children's toys.

Mr. Chairman, no one can deny the fact that the principal reason for the Iraqi people's suffering is the military aggression that destroyed Iraq's economic infrastructure and services facilities; the unjust economic blockade, which is still going on, and the increasing economic and humanitarian hardships that result from it; as well as the ceaseless foreign intervention in Iraq's domestic affairs, which stirs troubles, fabricates internal conflicts, and obstructs the central government's efforts to fulfill its duty and responsibilities to ensure abidance by law and order and establish security and stability.

The only way to end this unfairness and realize some justice is to lift the embargo imposed on Iraq, and to allow the country to rebuild what has been destroyed and its citizens to resume their normal life.

Iraq, with the capabilities in its possession, does not need donations extended by this or that state as a cover for well-known intentions. If Iraq restores its economic vigor, it can effectively contribute to extending humanitarian aid to other needy parts of the world, as it used to do before the embargo was imposed on it. There is plenty of evidence of this in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Many of the gentlemen hearing us know this well.

The circumstances used to justify the embargo on Iraq no longer exist. Therefore, lifting the embargo is a pressing need based on legal and humanitarian grounds. This step should have been taken immediately upon the termination of these circumstances. The continuation of the embargo is an explicit violation of the letter and spirit of the Security Council resolutions and contravenes all principles and humanitarian values. It also reveals to you, gentlemen, as it has earlier revealed to us, the inhumane and premeditated aims against Iraq now, as in the past, by parties that have become known and exposed.

Among the most important things that will preserve human rights in Iraq is that the neighboring countries abide by the international charters and pledges and refrain from exporting infiltrators to our country—infiltrators who carry out killings, plundering, and looting of the citizens' property as well as the state property in the same criminal method employed in March and April 1991. I believe this is known to all.

Mr. Chairman, the Security Council's silence over the crimes and hostile war actions perpetrated by the Zionist entity—which is spoiled and protected by the American veto—in Palestine, the occupied Arab territories, and Lebanon is the strongest conclusive evidence on the absence of justice and international legitimacy in the Security Council's practices due to the full American hegemony over the Council's measures. The Zionist entity's violations throughout the past years and the violations it is still perpetrating excessively, in contravention of the principles of the Charter, the human rights declaration, the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and the UN resolutions on the Palestinian people and the other occupied Arab territories, fill a volume that will show

Israeli violation of every article and paragraph of those charters dealing with human rights and justice. Despite all the hostile and expansionist policies of annexing territories, displacing their inhabitants, and persecuting civilians under military occupation, the Zionist entity is receiving more political, military, and economic aid, which enables it to continue its aggressive policies and its deprivation of the Palesitinian people of their inalienable rights, including their right to repatriation and establishment of their independent state in Palestine under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

Moreover, the Security Council's failure to settle the other armed disputes now taking place in more than one place of the world, as well as the human tragedies being witnessed by countries like Somalia, which constitutes the largest human catastrophe, all serve as additional evidence on the double standards and the political considerations governing the Security Council's behavior and measures, as dictated by the United States, the power dominating the Council.

Mr. Chairman, at the conclusion of my speech I would like to point out that the nations of the entire world are hoping that our international organization will play its real and effective role in finding a world permeated by security, stability, and prosperity; that it will proceed from the letter and spirit of the Charter and the principles of international law in dealing with crucial world affairs; and that it does not yield to any pressure or blackmail that will mortgage it to the will of the big powers and lead it away from the noble humanitarian aims for which it was established. If this stand, for which the countries earnestly concerned with the freedom of their will and their independence aspire, is not achieved in a clear and decisive manner, it will weaken the basis on which the United Nations was established, not to mention the destructive effects this will have on the world. Its non-commitment to its Charter will raise questions about it and it may end the way the previous world league ended, or have some other ignoble destiny.

Peace be upon you.

Oppositionists Rate Saddam's Chances 'Nonexistent'

NC3009163192 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1450 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] At their recent meeting in Shaqlawah, Iraqi oppositionists agreed to the principle of establishing a shadow government, a collective leadership, and a parliament representing the various opposition trends. At the end of their week-long meeting, they issued a statement announcing their agreement on the principle of establishing a democratic, parliamentary, and multi-party Iraq, a law state respecting human rights without any discrimination.

The final statement was adopted by a committee made up of 18 delegates representing 30 political organizations. Some participants said military plans to overthrow the despotic regime in Iraq were also discussed. The Iraqi opposition also decided to form a 17-member government and a collective leadership to manage the current affairs in a manner that serves the ultimate objective—the overthrow of the regime and the formation of an alternative interim government to run the country afterward. The delegates also decided to form a 174-member Iraqi national council representing the various trends within the opposition.

Observers of Iraqi affairs have seen in these accelerated developments a ray of hope for rearranging the Iraqi situation in preparation for the overthrow of the existing government. Despite all efforts, the Iraqi opposition had previously failed to reach such an agreement.

There is a local, regional, and international need to fill the vacuum after the downfall of tyrant Saddam. Local indications are that the regime is losing control and becoming increasingly unable to run the country's affairs and face the challenges of the mounting Iraqi uprising. Regionally, the Arab house is being rearranged after the differences among the Arab countries, and it is known that the existence of tyrant Saddam's Iraq is undesirable. This means that the regime must be removed and replaced by another in order for Iraq to be accepted regionally and allowed back into the Arab arena after a long break. Internationally, world public opinion no longer accepts a terrorist, fascist regime that has caused war and all this destruction.

The regime's chances for survival, therefore, are virtually nonexistent. Everyone is awaiting the moment of the downfall, and the current moves are only clear indications that the sun of freedom could rise at any moment and that our Iraqi people will attain their rights soon, God willing.

SAIRI Claims Killing 50 Soldiers in South

LD3010235192 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] The Iraqi opposition has announced tonight that its forces have killed 50 of the Iraqi regime's soldiers during battles that took place in the south of Iraq during the last few days.

The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq—SAIRI—has stated that popular forces and Arab tribes have attacked units of the 19th Brigade of the ruling regime in Baghdad at the outskirts of the city of al-'Amarah in response to the night curfew imposed by the regime's forces on the area.

The Supreme Assembly noted that tanks of the Republican Guard had surrounded areas in al-'Amarah while security men arrested people opposing the Iraqi regime.

Envoy Warns Against Aiding Kurds

NC2909210292 Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 23 Sep 92 p 1, 15

[Haluk Geray report: "The Aim Is to Fragment Iraq"]

[Excerpts] Ankara—Iraq has reacted to the U.S. and British initiative to supply humanitarian aid to the Kurds in Iraq through Turkey. It has regarded the dispatch of aid to the Kurds through the Habur border gate in Turkey—in total disregard of the central government in Baghdad—as a "violation of Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Meanwhile, several foreign ministry officials have felt uneasy at the frequent U.S. disclosure that "the failure of supplying aid to the Kurds will cause a new wave of immigration in the region."

In a statement to CUMHURIYET, 'Isam K. Khalil, Iraq's charge d'affaires in Ankara, said that any move to ignore the central government in Baghdad and supply aid to a region in Iraq, which, according to the UN resolutions, is a part of that country, will be a violation of Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In view of Ambassador Rafi' Dahham Mujjawil's absence from Ankara, 'Isam K. Khalil replied to the questions CUMHURIYET had on the question of aid to the Kurds. He said: "A humanitarian reason does not exist for the plans that are being made to supply aid to northern Iraq. The aim is to fragment Iraq. The way to enter a foreign country in a legal way is common knowledge. An appeal has to be made to the central government. A move to enter Iraq through the neighboring countries without the consent of the central government would indicate that Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity is not respected." [passage omitted]

Asked to explain his government's view on the initiative made to provide aid to a certain region and not to Iraq as a whole, Khalil asserted: We have not asked any country to help Iraq. If we consider humanitarian reasons, then the embargo on Iraq should be lifted. The natural resources Iraq has are enough. They are enough for the Kurds and for the Turkomans; that is, provided the United States and Britain do not interfere in our affairs and withdraw their occupation forces from the region. [passage omitted]

Trade Minister on U.S. Plan To Use Funds Abroad

JN2609081692 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Sep 92 pp 1, 16

[By 'Umar Shunaykat in Baghdad]

[Text] Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih has said that Iraq has filed a lawsuit against the Bis [name published in English] Swiss Bank, which refused to allow it to use $350 million in Iraqi assets which it holds to finance transactions to buy milk, medicine, and foodstuffs for the people of Iraq. This, he said, contradicts Security Council Resolution 786 and the decision of the Sanctions Committee which allows Iraq to use its funds abroad to buy medicine and foodstuffs.

At a press conference held yesterday, Friday, attended by journalists who came to cover the Babil Festival, the trade minister said Iraq had informed the Swiss bank that it will be responsible for Iraqi children during a period set by the Iraqi Government. During that period, the Iraqi Government made transactions to buy baby milk and medicine. He noted that this decision will be communicated to banks which hold Iraqi assets, pointing out that many states have prevented Iraq from using its funds, primarily America and Britain, which hold $100 million in Iraqi assets. At the beginning, they allowed Iraq to use the funds, he noted, but later they stopped this process after using only $42 million to finance food and medicine transactions for the Iraqi people. Similarly, the German Trade Ministry allowed the use of Iraqi funds amounting to $2 million, but the German Foreign Ministry refused to complete the deal.

France holds $150 million in Iraqi assets and is not allowing Baghdad to use it. The same goes for Canada, Japan, and Western European states. The Iraqi minister said that the Trade Ministry has contacted international banks asking to open a $4 billion credit account to finance foodstuffs and to ease the suffering of Iraqis, but they refused because America would not allow any decision in the interest of the Iraqi people.

Regarding U.S. attempts to have the Security Council issue a resolution allowing the use of Iraqi funds to repay Iraqi debts and finance the destruction of Iraqi weapons and war reparations, the minister said this contradicts all international laws, but America is now practicing the law of the jungle against the world, brushing aside all laws and disregarding the legal and humanitarian aspects.

He pointed out that Iraq will not remain silent over the rights and funds of the Iraqi people and will ask for these funds through all the means available to it.

Syria Accused of Seeking Separate Agreement

JN2909200092 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: The Syrian regime's policy has passed through various stages of falsification, deception, and political hypocrisy under resounding slogans of anti-Zionism, anti-imperialism, and the need to counter Washington's plots against pan-Arab objectives and the militant course seeking to liberate the occupied Arab territories and to move the Arab nation from a state of backwardness, stagnation, and helplessness to a state of sophistication, development, and defiance.

While the Zionists were violating Lebanon's sovereignty and approaching an Arab capital for the first time in the

history of the Zionist entity, Syrian guns were turning their barrels toward the strongholds of Lebanese revolutionaries and patriots to demolish them over the heads of their occupants and to guide Zionist soldiers to the positions of Palestinian and Lebanese revolutionaries. Meanwhile, Syrian ground defenses turned a blind eye to any Zionist plane over Beirut.

Hafiz al-Asad also fed the Iranian war machine with various types of missiles to hit the schools of Baghdad, the mosques of al-Basrah, the houses of Mandali, and the villages of Maysan. Then, he stated to an agent paper in the Gulf that he was fully committed to and in support of the Arab people's unity and the Arab nation's security. Meanwhile, Khomeyni's miserable units were entering the chaste Iraqi territory in al-Faw. At the same, Khaddam, Talas, and al-Asad ahead of them declared that any aggression against the sovereignty and border of any Arab country is an aggression against the sovereignty and soil of Syria. They forgot that the Golan Heights have been occupied for a quarter century by the Zionists, who declared them to be an indivisible part of Greater Israel. He condemned al-Sadat as a traitor, renegade, violator of the Arab consensus, friend of the Zionists, and enemy of the Arab nation. At the same time, his defense minister was collecting pictures of naked Zionist female soldiers on the beaches of occupied Palestine to add them to his extremely revolutionary and military album.

Iraq has always exposed the Syrian's regime's suspect objectives, especially after its dirty plots against Iraq were exposed and after it closed the Iraqi oil pipeline which passes through Syrian territory at the beginning of the Iranian aggression against Iraq to support Iran. This regime also revealed its subservience and wicked intentions at every opportunity to disperse Arab ranks whenever they got closer and to harm Iraq whenever it found a chance to do so. That was extremely clear during the Mother of Battles [Gulf war] and up to now. The continuous meetings between al-Asad's representatives and the representatives of the Zionist delegation at the settlement [al-taswiyah] negotiations have revealed that al-Asad has begun to publicly cede Palestinian and Arab rights to Jerusalem, seeking negotiations with the Zionists on the Golan Heights only. He expressed readiness to become a close friend of them so that they would return the Golan Heights to him without war, but with humiliation, as they did with al-Sadat when they returned the Sinai peninsula to him in return for humiliating him before all people of the world, particularly the Muslim and Arab people.

By this maneuver, al-Asad seeks nothing but to win the Golan cake to celebrate it along with his lackeys before his patient, steadfast people and to say that he achieved with relentless struggle the restoration of the Golan Heights to Syria. However, this would be achieved through the signing of a new Camp David that disregards all the chaste Syrian and Arab blood that has been spilled to defend the Golan Heights and all occupied Arab territories.

This al-Asad [lion] who turns into a chicken before Zionism, has begun to reveal, or rather brazenly declare, that Syrian-Zionist relations will enter the stage of friendship, cooperation, and brotherhood through the Golan Heights. But as for Jerusalem, the Palestinians, Arab objectives, Arab and pan-Arab struggle, and the regime's resounding slogans, they all have no place in al-Asad's calculations.

Saddam Thanked by Imam's Son for Condolences

JN2709193392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Sep 92

["Text" of cable from Muhammad Taqi Kho'i, son of the late Grand Ayatollah Imam Seyyed Kho'i, to President Saddam Husayn at the the end of the condolences ceremony held on the death of Imam Kho'i; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Excellency unique leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect you: May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. With hearts that have faith in God's fate, we, along with religious authorities and the Islamic nation as well, were afflicted with the loss of His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Imam Seyyed Kho'i, may he be enveloped with God's abundant mercy.

While we were in the midst of the affliction, suffering from the bitterness it created and the heavy sadness it elicited, your noble gesture of dispatching the Presidential Office chief, accompanied by the awqaf and religious affairs minister, to deputize for you in attending the recitation of the Opening Chapter of the Koran [to invoke God's mercy on the late imam's soul] had an immense impact on us, on the religious scholars, and on the clergymen.

Now that the condolences ceremony has been concluded, we would like to extend to your excellency the most sublime manifestations of thanks and gratitude. We beseech Almighty God to protect you and to safeguard the mujahid Iraqi people and the Islamic nation from any misfortune or calamity. He is capable of answering our prayers.

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] for Imam Kho'i's family, Muhammad Taqi Kho'i

Information Ministry To Implement Saddam's Plan

JN2609143092 Baghdad INA in English 1240 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 26, INA—The Ministry of Information and Culture has laid down a plan to implement President Saddam Husayn's message of August 12. The message tackled the country's economic conditions asserting the need for proper management of Iraq's potentials by government bodies.

A report by the English Language daily "THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER" said the plan includes mobilizing media to organise programmes, interviews, symposiums and episodes on various economic fields, including industry, agriculture, trade, transport and communications, construction and public services.

The ministry urged the media to highlight other ministries programmes and their implementation of president's message.

The plan also includes holding symposiums by journalists, researchers, economists and experts and publishing studies by famous writers on president's message and speeches.

In a bid to trace people's problems and to combat red tape in government formalities, the ministry is to form a media team at the Iraqi News Agency to supply radio, television and the press with reports on ministries and other government establishments in relation to the president's message.

The ministry urged media channels to cast light on double standard practices on the level of management and individuals and expose bribery and corruption.

In the light of president's message, the ministry called on government departments to adopt scientific methods and rely mainly on figures.

The ministry also urged the media to interview ministers who promised people with achievements and to survey public opinion and rumours. [sentence as received]

The information plan includes minimizing the period allocated to variety and entertainment programmes to allow more time for political programmes.

The ministry urged writers, directors, musicians, painters and dramatists to prepare cultural and artistic works and documentaries to mobilize public opinion through indirect and acceptable style and language.

The cultural affairs department, dar al-ma'mun for translation and publishing, and the children culture house have been asked to translate and publish what is most suitable for the current stage and to achieve utmost utilization of staff efforts.

A team headed by the information and culture minister and which includes the ministry's two undersecretaries and editors-in-chief of newspapers has been formed to follow up the plan launched to translate president's message and to issue urgent and daily resolutions and directives.

As for internal management, the ministry's plan gives priority to maintenance and protection of buildings, spare parts, equipment and technical systems, the operation of the ministry's printing houses in a way that would prolong their span of life as long as possible.

Government Launches Crackdown Against Moneychangers

JN2709085392 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Sep 92 p 2

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—The Iraqi government has launched a crackdown against moneychangers aimed at controlling fluctuations of the Iraqi dinar, blamed to a large extent for a dramatic decline in the flow of essential goods to the country, Iraqi sources said Saturday.

"One of the priorities of the government now appears to be allaying businessmen's fears that they risk major losses if the dinar continued on its roller-coaster course," said an Iraqi businessman based in Amman.

According to the businessmen and other Iraqi sources, the actions adopted by the government included detention of moneychangers after raids on their premises and seizure of currency and stricter inspection at the border posts to check currency smuggling.

The sources could not confirm reports that over 30 moneychangers were executed after they were found to have speculated with the Iraqi dinar, which has been plummeting since the end of the Gulf war in February last year.

The exchange rate before the war was between four and five Iraqi dinars to the dollar in the black market while the official rate was $3.12 to the dinar. The Iraqi currency steadily lost its value in the black market since then, and was being traded two weeks ago between 40 and 45 dinars to the dollar.

"In the last one week, the rate fallen to around 25 dinars to the dollar in the wake of the strict government action, which included the busting of a major group which used to sell counterfeit dinars in the market," said a traveller from Baghdad.

Reports in the Iraqi press have indicated that the government believes that the flooding of the market with fake dinars—attributed to the anti-Iraq Western coalition—is largely responsible for the instability of the currency.

Iraqi sources in Amman noted that during several recent meetings with senior Iraqi officials, Amman-based Iraqi as well as Jordanian businessmen had emphasised that they were not interested in doing business with Iraq unless the Baghdad government restored a stable exchange rate of the dinar.

They argued that the dramatic ups and downs of the currency against the American dollar left them vulnerable to huge losses.

"The same point was also made by businessmen based in Turkey and Iran"—two other sources of foodstuffs for Iraq," said a Jordanian merchant.

The last meeting between a senior Iraqi official and Amman-based businessmen took place on Sept. 18 when Minister of Trade Muhammad Mahdi Salih met with a group of Jordanian traders in Amman.

Fears triggered by executions of Iraqi merchants accused of profiteering in July coupled with the uncertainty over the dinar have dramatically reduced the flow of goods from Jordan to Iraq.

Baghdad had been trying since mid-August to assure the terrified businessmen that the July executions were a "one-time" affair" and were carried out only in cases where merchants were "exploiting" the chaos in Iraq, which is straining under international sanctions imposed after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Food and medicine are exempt from the sanctions.

The Iraqi Government has not issued any statement on the currency situation, but indications that a crackdown could be in the offing came earier this month when BABIL, a daily published by president Saddam Husayn's son 'Udayy, called on Baghdad to stabilise the see-sawing dinar.

However, the paper appeared to criticise the executions carried out in July and caution against any such further actions.

Merchants should be punished, it said, but "not all of them." Would be not helping them to reunite themselves and become a strong force again? [sentence as published]

"For many guilty Iraqis, it's better to show them the pistol then to direct it against them... this kind of approach would work."

Experts on Iraq said it was highly unlikely that the government, reeling back from the back-lash of the July executions, would resort to further similar action.

"It will only further erode everyone's confidence and push businessmen away from resuming trade in the Iraqi market," noted a former Iraqi diplomat now resident abroad.

1,552 Smuggled Copper Bars Seized in Tirbil

JN2609182692 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 20 Sep 92 p 1

[Text] BABIL has learned that customs officials in al-Qadisiyah (Tirbil) border post have seized 1,552 copper bars weighing around 23 tonnes hidden in a tank mounted on a Mercedes tanker truck. The copper bars were to be smuggled outside the country.

Fighting With Hizballah in South Lebanon Reported

Hizballah Attack Discussed

TA3009183992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] A debriefing of the 29 September Hizballah attack in south Lebanon, held by the SLA [South Lebanese Army] and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] indicates that the terrorists followed a precise and detailed plan. Before launching their attack, they fired cannon shells at SLA posts over a wide sector to distract the soldiers manning the posts. Later a force on foot attacked one of the posts. The force was made up of 10 to 40 fighters.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that during the debriefing, soldiers of an SLA post were praised for returning fire and, despite the heavy losses they had suffered, organizing a chase and calling for reinforcements.

At the end of the debriefing, it was decided that the SLA will find a reply to the massive use of Sagger missiles, employed by the terrorists for the first time. Today the SLA beefed up its forces in the area of the clash. So far, the area has remained quiet.

Planes Attack Hizballah Targets

TA0110054492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] Before midnight last night Air Force planes attacked Hizballah terrorist targets in 'Ayn Bu-Siwar at the foot of Jabal Safi and in Dayr Qanun al-Nahr northeast of Tyre. The attack lasted a short while, and all our planes returned safely.

Lebanese security sources reported that at nearly 2330 last night [0130 GMT on 1 October] Israeli helicopters attacked the house of a Hizballah member in Dayr Qanun al-Nahr near Tyre. The Air Force attack is a reaction to the series of military actions initiated by this Shi'ite organization against SLA [South Lebanese Army] positions in the security zone on Tuesday. These actions came in the wake of a decline in Hizballah activity, which stemmed from massive IDF [Israel Defense Forces] activity in the region as well as from Hizballah's preparations for elections to the Lebanese Parliament. Now, with Iranian aid and encouragement and Syrian knowledge, Hizballah has apparently resumed its normal activity against the IDF and the SLA on land, including shootings, bombs, and infiltrations.

Now that Israel finds itself in a process of peace negotiations with the Syrian and Lebanese Governments under U.S. sponsorship, it will seek to highlight its readiness to continue the peace process alongside the uncompromising struggle against terror and full support for the SLA and the security zone's inhabitants. Reference is not to a new wave or renewed Hizballah activity, military elements repeatedly emphasize. Hizballah has not stopped its anti-Israeli activity, and additional Hizballah attempts to attack IDF and SLA forces in the security zone are expected.

Activity May Prompt 'Ground Action'

TA3009091292 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 30 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by On Levi and Shim'on Weiss]

[Excerpt] A senior military source told DAVAR last night that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will have to respond, possibly even in a ground action, if Hizballah activity along the northern border does not cease. The source noted that "yesterday's activity by Hizballah terrorists was planned and coordinated in all sectors. The organization is slowly returning to last February's level of activity [which prompted an Israeli incursion into south Lebanon]," he said.

SLA [South Lebanese Army] sources also said that it will not be possible for yesterday's Hizballah attack to pass without a massive IDF and SLA response.

It was one of the most massive and organized recent terrorist attacks in south Lebanon's security zone. [passage omitted]

General on IDF Operations

TA3009125892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] In the wake of Hizballah's operation against an SLA [South Lebanese Army] base yesterday, Res. Major General Ori Or, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, says that the nature of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] activity in Lebanon must be based on situation assessments rather than ideology. An IDF operation is beneficial only if adequate intelligence data can be amassed, and if the received information indicates that the IDF can operate outside the security zone, Ori Or says.

He stresses that only if the peace negotiations with Syria make progress will it be possible to change the situation in Lebanon. Therefore, the security zone should be left unchanged for the present.

Cabinet Sees Rabin-al-Asad Meeting as Essential

TA3009180592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Political correspondent Shlomo Raz report]

[Text] We will start with today's cabinet session:

Israel is demanding that the Syrians make clear their view of the essence of peace and security so as to make progress in the negotiations possible. In the session, most of the ministers agreed that there is an essential need for

a summit meeting between Yitzhaq Rabin and Hafiz al-Asad. Our political correspondent, Shlomo Raz, reports:

The political discussion of today's cabinet session can be summed up in a single sentence: The Syrians want linkage between all the agreements; Israel is against this. The Palestinians want to discuss components of the permanent arrangement; Israel is against this; it is willing to discuss interim arrangements. Nevertheless, it is hard to describe a complex reality in a single sentence, as seen in the brief conversation we held with Health Minister Hayim Ramon at the conclusion of the cabinet session. We started the conversation with an account of the demands Israel will present to the Syrians in the next round of talks:

[Begin recording] [Ramon] We are demanding that the Syrians provide a detailed account of the essence of peace and security, which are part and parcel of UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

[Raz] Is this the main problem? Is this the major difficulty holding up progress in the talks today?

[Ramon] Absolutely so. We have not yet reached the stage we had reached with Egypt when al-Sadat came to Jerusalem. I believe that there is an unusual necessity for a meeting at the highest possible level, meaning a meeting between the Syrian president and the Israeli prime minister. Such a meeting is needed, it is essential, and without it, it seems we will not be able to make progress and break both the psychological and the practical barrier that prevents faster progress. Progress will be made, but at a Middle Eastern pace.

[Raz] Are practical steps being taken to attain such a summit?

[Ramon] I do not know. The prime minister publicly announced that he believes this should happen. Such a public statement by the prime minister has political ramifications, and I believe that the diplomatic wheels are turning already in an attempt to establish such a meeting. This, however, is up to the Syrians. [end recording]

[Raz] That was Minister Hayim Ramon. Regarding the Palestinians, the cabinet was told that the gap over the issues under discussion has not been bridged. Some progress was made, however: Talks are held in informal frameworks, not in subcommittees yet. The cabinet was told that this is a positive development.

The Jordanians are willing to discuss a peace agreement, not an accord, which is more binding. With them, the Israeli delegation is discussing matters of security, refugees, and at the same time, talks are held on the level of experts about matters such as water and the environment.

For several hours, the heads of the delegations briefed the ministers. Elyaqim Rubinstein, Itamar Rabinovich, and Yosi Hadas provided a very thorough report to the cabinet. The bottom line of the cabinet session today is: A meeting between Yitzhaq Rabin and Hafiz al-Asad is needed.

Rabinovich Assesses Syrian Stand at Talks

TA3009170292 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Telephone interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Israeli delegation for negotiations with Syria, by Uri Paz and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Mardor] Good evening, Sir.

[Rabinovich] Good evening.

[Mardor] Do you share the prime minister's opinion that a Rabin-al-Asad meeting is a must if negotiations are to more forward?

[Rabinovich] Absolutely, though I am not sure the prime minister necessarily means a personal meeting. He means a meeting on a political level, and if one is to be held, it should be on the highest level. I believe there are two reasons for this: One is that we are dealing with a country in which one man makes all the decisions, and therefore has the most maneuverability. Thus, the ability to promote an arrangement is at its peak when sitting with him, and not with people who are never sure whether they are operating within the boundaries of their authority.

[Paz] Does this wish to raise the level of the talks to one of heads of states indicate that in the current level of the dialogue—the Israeli and the Syrian delegations—the parties are knee-deep in their own mud, and that someone has to pull them out of the mud—meaning Rabin and al-Asad?

[Rabinovich] No, but if I may, I would like to complete my previous answer. I mentioned two reasons for such a meeting, the one being the freedom to maneuver that a man like al-Asad, or someone from his inner circle, has. The other reason is the fact that the State and Government of Israel want to ascertain that the Syrian political echelons have a deep commitment to the talks.

As for your second question: Our talks are not bogged down. I believe we are on the track of negotiations, which are difficult. The delegations—in their current level and composition—have been and are good enough to start the negotiations and put them on track. However, in order to make qualitative jumps and to bring it nearer a goal, there is a need to raise the level. As someone who is on the current level of the talks, I will be the first to agree.

[Mardor] You speak of real jumps ahead, but we heard Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's UN address, and perhaps what we have here is a retreat from the progress and understandings made in Washington? Al-Shar' now speaks of a full withdrawal from all of the territories, including Jerusalem.

[Rabinovich] Al-Shar' remarks were made of two parts. We have pointed at and sharpened two issues about which we would like to receive Syria's clarifications. One is the essence of peace and the other is the issue of linkage. Al-Shar's remarks constitute an improvement on the issue of the essence of peace: He spoke of total peace, which is a sweeping phrase. At the same time, he made the issue of linkage very tight, perhaps due to Palestinian pressure, among other things, and perhaps he has other reasons, which I would not like to speculate about at this time. This is a stage in the negotiations in which we have some improvement on one aspect and a retreat or a worsening of the conditions on another. This is not the first twist we have come across in the talks nor is it the last expected. It should be viewed as such.

[Paz] Could you say that, after al-Shar's speech, the Syrians have remained in their basic stands, and have not changed any of their original positions?

[Rabinovich] I believe it would not be correct to say that. Regarding the issue of Israel's total withdrawal from all of the territories—this indeed is the Syrian initial stand. Regarding the essence of peace, we have never heard expressions such as total peace before. Allow me to remind you that before the talks started in August, a meeting was held by the so-called frontline states in Damascus and, in what was considered a revolutionary move, in his concluding statement, Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' used the expression a peace agreement—an agreement in the most lax meaning of the word; he used the Arab word "ittifaq." He went from there to the expression—total peace; this is a considerable distance.

[Mardor] You, Professor Rabinovich, made considerable progress on the interpersonal level. Could you say today that you know the Syrians better after the latest round of talks?

[Rabinovich] Undoubtedly, since the talks were primarily held in a businesslike atmosphere, in which two groups of people spoke with each other. Also, because the platform of the discussions has expanded and we discussed a wide variety of issues—even some that do not belong with the peace talks in the narrow technical meaning of the word—there is no doubt that we in the delegation today have a far better understanding of the way the Syrians operate, of their political thinking, and of the essential problems at hand.

[Paz] Speaking of the essence, it is hard to ignore one of our major headlines today: While we talk peace in Jerusalem and Washington, Syria has been transferring arms to the Hizballah, which, according to our reports, came from Iran. This is all in view of the foiled Hizballah onslaught on army posts in south Lebanon on 29 September. The Syria-Hizballah connection could become a very prominent issue in the peace talks, could it not?

[Rabinovich] It could, but currently it is not. There are two reasons for this: One is that we do not mix the tracks; the problems of Lebanon are broached in our delegation's discussions with the Lebanese delegation. We regard the problem as Lebanese. It is true that there is a Syrian connection here of which we are all aware. Still, for the time being, we do not see it as proper to bring up this issue. I can assure you, however, that we will not conclude the negotiations with all of the delegations before we not only discuss this problem, but also solve it.

[Mardor] Prof. Itamar Rabinovich, thank you.

[Rabinovich] Thank you.

Egypt Said Mediating 'Breakthrough' With Syria

TA0110065792 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 1 Oct 92 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] In recent days, Egypt has been holding intensive diplomatic contacts aimed at achieving a breakthrough in the Israeli-Syrian negotiations, Jerusalem political sources stated last night.

According to the sources, there have been indications in recent days that the Egyptian mediation efforts, which began about a month ago, are about to come to fruition. Although no precise details concerning the goal of the mediation were available last night, it was learned that an authoritative Egyptian source had stated that the outcome of the Egyptian efforts will be publicly announced in the coming days and that this outcome will infuse renewed momentum into the negotiations with Syria.

Jerusalem does not rule out the possibility that the Egyptians are trying to persuade Damascus to consent to an Israeli-Syrian summit to be held in Cairo. [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi Says Progress in Any Sphere Welcome

TA3009183092 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] The Palestinians do not fear progress in the talks between Syria and Israel. Nor do they believe that such progress is leading toward a separate agreement. This was stated today by Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. She claimed that the talks had reached an impasse, but said that there were ways to break through such obstacles. Our correspondent in the territories Udi Segal reports.

[Begin recording] [Segal] Palestinian spokesman Hanan 'Ashrawi today said that as far as the Palestinians were concerned, any progress, on any of the negotiating tracks, was a welcome development that would clearly have a positive effect on the other tracks as well. 'Ashrawi was reacting to the criticism leveled against Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in the Palestinian press for ostensibly seeking to sign a separate peace agreement with Israel. A separate peace agreement, outside the framework of a comprehensive settlement, is inconceivable, 'Ashrawi said.

['Ashrawi, in English] It is encouraging to have progress on all tracks, and we hope that if there is progress on the Syrian-Israeli track that it will reflect itself on the Palestinian-Israeli track. Well, there is a Syrian commitment and assurance that there would be no separate agreement.

[Segal, translates above remarks and continues] This was made clear when the Arab countries coordinated their positions. Commenting on the last round of talks, 'Ashrawi said that although no tangible progress was made, a certain degree of understanding was reached between the parties regarding specific issues.

['Ashrawi, in English] I do not think that we have reached a dead end. I think that we have reached an impasse of sorts but there are ways of breaking through impasses like that.

[Segal, translates above remarks and continues] As for the activities of the Palestinian delegates in the territories, 'Ashrawi said that they mainly engaged in explaining the peace process to their people.

['Ashrawi, in English] Well, there is increasing skepticism among the Palestinians in the occupied territories, because...and understandably so...it is not a question of lack of patience, I think here we have to explain to the Palestinians exactly what is happening, and the fact that negotiations by nature are a long and arduous process.

[Segal translates above remarks and continues] We have to explain to our people that we cannot achieve results overnight. [end recording]

Agreement Made With U.S. on Questioning Dotan

TA2909204192 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] The U.S. Administration has asked to interrogate a dozen Israelis in connection with the Rami Dotan affair. This transpires from an agreement reached in meetings between senior U.S. and Israeli jurists. Our correspondent in Washington Ya'ir Stern reports that the Americans want to interrogate not only Dotan, but also other Israeli military personnel and civilians involved in the affair.

According to the agreement reached in the talks with State Attorney Dorit Beinisch, the Americans will interrogate Dotan and other suspects with Israeli legal experts present in the room. Whenever it appears that the questions could harm Israel's security or impinge on the sovereignty of Israeli law, the local jurists will be permitted to stop the interrogation. The interrogations will apparently start after the holidays, following the endorsement of the agreement by both countries' justice ministers.

Understanding Said Final

TA3009184692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Justice Minister David Liba'i will report to the cabinet about the understanding reached in the United States between State Attorney Dorit Beinisch and her U.S. colleagues regarding the interrogation of Rami Dotan by U.S. lawmen. Liba'i said that the agreement was reached with his approval and does not require any further authorization.

Our legal affairs correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that Justice Ministry officials refused to divulge any details about the understanding reached. Various reports stated that Israel would permit the American investigators to interrogate Dotan and other Israelis implicated in the kickback scandal which involved U.S. companies. The interrogation will be supervised by the State Attorney's Office.

Appeal Against Rabin on Golan Withdrawal Rejected

TA2409123992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] The High Court of Justice has rejected a petition by members of the Temple Mount Faithful and [National Religious Party] Knesset Member Hanan Porat against the prime minister regarding a withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Our correspondent Nava Kohen reports that the ruling was made by justices Menahem Eylon, Dov Levin, and Theodore Or, who announced that arguments for the ruling will be given at a later date. They noted, however, that there may be room for an appeal if a decision is made to effect a withdrawal.

During the session, the justices leveled harsh criticism at the petitioners' assertion that the prime minister is betraying his nation by declaring that a compromise on the Golan is necessary.

Moreover, the justices questioned their own authority to rule on political issues and the methods of political negotiations. The High Court justices added, however, that querying the attorney general on the Golan issue may be appropriate. They noted that the debate is still in the preliminary phase of mere declarations, stressing that if a decision on a withdrawal is made, there may be room for an appeal.

Investigation of Secret Extremist Group Continues

Details of Trial Reported

JN3009075492 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Sep 92 pp 1,5

[By Sana' 'Atiyah and P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Marka [Amman suburb]—The trial of deputies Layth Shubaylat and Ya'qub Qirrish and two other co-defendants began at the State Securitry Court on Tuesday with formal charges filed by the prosecution and technical objections raised by the defence on the conduct of investigations and gathering of evidence.

The four accused were charged with various counts ranging from plotting against the regime, trying to undermine Jordanian-Iraqi relations, possession of explosives and weapons and slandering the Monarch and Parliament.

The trial was adjourned until Wednesday when the prosecutor-general is expected to answer to a host of technical objections raised by defence lawyers to the way the investigations and questioning of the accused were conducted in the build-up to the case.

None of the defendants entered a plea pending the response by the prosecutor, Major Muhammad Hijazi, to defence assertions.

Ibrahim Bakr, who is leading a team of 12 lawyers defending Mr. Shubaylat, argued in a nine-page presentation that:

—Part of the investigations was carried out by the general intelligence department and then handed over to the prosecutor;

—The procedure of interrogations of suspects and witnesses and the investigations were illegal;

—The defendant's constitutional rights were violated when the authorities bugged his phone since October 1991 without a prior court order;

—There were contradictions in dates given by the prosecutor specifiying the period of investigations, surveillance and arrest.

Shaykh Qirrish's chief lawyer Ahmad Abu-'Arqub also objected to the charges against his client in a four-page memorandum which he read to the court. His objections, many of which echoed the points raised by Mr. Bakr, also included the questioning of the credibility of the testimonies made by suspects who were released.

Mr. Abu-'Arqub also challenged the constitutionality and jurisdiction of the State Security Court, which is presided over by three military officers, saying it was an "extraordinary court" which was not empowered to try a case involving charges as cited in the chargesheet.

Mr. Bakr is also challenging the legality of the State Security Court in a separate case filed by Mr. Shubaylat at the Higher Court of Justice.

The main argument in that case is the State Security Court was created at a time of dire emergency and such conditions do not exist now.

Lawyers for the third and fourth defendants did not make any presentation.

Major Hijazi sought 24 hours to prepare his response to the defence arguments and the presiding judge, Lieutenant-Colonel Yusuf al-Fa'uri, set the session for 9.30 Wednesday morning.

Mr. Shubaylat, 49 an independent member of the Lower House of Parliament from the Third District of Amman and named first defendant, was charged with seven counts:

—Belonging to an illegal organisation (Shabab al-Nafir al- Islami) which aims at changing the regime through revolution and sabotage and seeking to take leadership position;

—Instigating others through speech and writings to change the constitution and overthrowing the regime;

—Undertaking actions designed to undermine Jordan's relations with Iraq;

—Possessing explosives without licence intended for illegal use;

—Possessing automatic weapons without licence intended for illegal use;

—Slandering members of Parliament with abusive language;

—Slandering the dignity of His Majesty the King through written material.

Shaykh Qirrish 40, also an independent deputy from the Second District of Amman and named second defendant, was charged only on the first five counts.

The third and fourth defendants, Ahmad al-Ayyubi, 45, and 'Abd-al- Hamid Idkayk, 44—owners of a Jabal al-Husayn shop called "The World of Mirrors and Frames"—were charged on the first three counts only.

The two were detained on Aug. 17 after a search of their premises yielded explosives and weapons, according to the prosecution.

Shaykh Qirrish was arrested on Aug. 27 and Mr. Shubaylat was detained on Aug. 31. Bail has been denied to all the four defendants.

The battery of defence lawyers for Mr. Shubaylat headed by Mr. Bakr includes four members of the Lower House of

Parliament—Faris al-Nabulsi, Muhammad Faris al-Tarawinah, Salim al-Zu'bi and 'Abd-al- Karim al-Dughmi—while Shaykh Qirrish's defence is led by Mr. Abu 'Arqub and assisted by Jamal al-Dumur and Najib Irshaydat.

Marwan al-Kayid leads the defence of the third and fourth accused.

In an interview with Jordan Television after the session, Mr. Abu 'Arqub welcomed the court's decision to allow public access to the trial and said: "We hope that the aim is to implement the provisions of the law regardless of the results."

"It is not important to win or lose (the case); what is important is (court) rulings according to the law and principles of legitimacy," he said. "The convictions of the court will determine the end result of the trial. In the meantime we hope that the court—and God willing it will—view things objectively."

The tense two-hour session of the court was attended by several members of parliament, including the Muslim Brotherhood's Yusif al-'Azm, 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah, Ibrahim Khuraysat, Hamzah Mansur, Muhammad Khuraybat and Humam Sa'id, and the Constitutional Bloc's 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah.

The audience of about 100 also included family members and supporters of the accused, trade union officials, journalists and a representative of the London-based human rights organisation Amnesty International.

Court regulations do not permit cameras or tape-recorders inside the courtroom. Jordan Television interviewed lawyers and several others inside the court compound. Foreign television cameras were kept outside and had to be content with reporting from the sidewalk.

Mr. Shubaylat, wearing a blue sweater and trousers, was the first accused to be brought into the court. He was followed by the white-robed Shaykh Qirrish. The two smiling deputies, who are detained in separate jails, embraced each other. Both appeared to have lost weight.

The third and fourth defendants greeted the deputies with a curt hello as they entered the dock and did not otherwise speak except to their lawyer.

Mr. Shubaylat, a fiery deputy who used to spark heated debates on the House floor on many issues since entering parliament in 1984 elections, looked composed; the other three defendants fidgeted while the charge sheet was read out by a court clerk against the occasional humming of three ceiling fans.

After the court session, Mr. Shubaylat was permitted to talk briefly with his wife, lawyers and friends in the court room while Shaykh Qirrish was rushed out to a waiting police car.

Judge al-Fa'uri agreed to a defence request that preference of admission to the small courtroom be given to Parliament members and lawyers. He also agreed that the accused deputies be allowed to read daily newspapers in detention and allowed pen and paper to prepare their defence arguments.

"Everything will be taken care of; the case is in the court now," he was overheard telling the lawyers.

Security was particularly tight at the State Security Court, located at the same premises at the old military court in Marka, north of Amman. Heavily armed soldiers wearing the distinct red handbands of military police patrolled the grounds of the courthouse while policemen in blue with M-16 machineguns were on alert outside, where parking space was nearly full.

Guards were also posted near the windows of the courtroom. The window behind the defendants' dock was shuttered down.

Many citizens who sought to gain entry to the 100-seat court room were turned away at the gates.

The defendants were driven to and from the court in separate police cars; they were not handcuffed.

As Mr. Shubaylat, who is considered to be one of the most popular deputies having secured the highest number of votes in two elections, was brought outside after the court appearance, a crowd of about 100 gathered outside applauded him and chanted "Allahu Akbar."

Connection With Mosad Explored

JN0110130292 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The State Security Court will devote its next three sessions to hearing the statements of three witnesses in the case of the Islamic Mobilization Youth Organization [IMYO]. The statements of two of them point to a connection with the Israeli Mosad by most members of the Islamic Liberation Front [jabhat al-tahrir al-islami], which was led by Islamist Deputy Ya'qub Qirrish, who is now being tried on the charge of heading the IMYO—an organization aimed at toppling the Jordanian regime, according to the bill of indictment.

Judiciary sources said the two witnesses, Muhammad al-Mughrabi and Isma'il al-Mughrabi, admitted in their written statements that they belonged to the Islamic Liberation Front before they were arrested in 1988 and sentenced to 10 years in prison on the charge of contacting and collaborating with the Mosad. Muhammad al-Mughrabi admitted that the Mosad asked him to smuggle weapons from the Islamic Front to the occupied territories so that the Israeli authorities would pursue the delivery of these weapons in the territories. These statements made no mention of whether Deputy Qirrish was aware of that relationship.

The IMYO case took a new course after a split occurred within the defense ranks when Marwan al-Kayid, defense attorney for the two merchants implicated in the case, attacked Ibrahim Bakr, defense attorney for Shubaylat, urging him not to attack his two clients and to only defend his client. This happened after Bakr tried to cast doubts on the statements of the two merchants, who confessed to the charge of possessing weapons and explosives.

$77.5-Million Loan Agreements Signed With EC

JN2909200792 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Four agreements on loans offered by the European Community to Jordan were signed in Brussels today. The loans, worth 59.5 million European Currency Units [ECU], equivalent to $77.5 million, will be used to finance a number of development projects which will be implemented by various Jordanian parties and to strengthen the Jordanian balance of payments.

The agreements were signed for the Jordanian Government by Planning Minister Ziyad Fariz and for the European Community by Commissioner (Ebel Manuts).

The signing ceremony was attended by Jordan's representative to the European Community, who is also the Jordanian ambassador to Belgium.

Foreign Minister Meets Counterparts in New York

JN3009061892 Amman Radio Jordan Network in English 0430 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] In New York, Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir headed a meeting last night for his counterparts of Arab states involved in the peace process. The ministers exchanged views on the progress of Arab-Israeli negotiations.

The sixth round of bilateral peace talks ended last week in Washington without reaching any breakthrough.

Meanwhile, all foreign Arab ministers met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's conference and discussed issues of common interest.

Abu-Jabir also met with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and exchanged views on the Middle East peace process and the European role in it as well as bilateral ties.

Dr. Abu-Jabir also met separately with the foreign Ministers of Iraq, Singapore, Yemen and the deputy French foreign minister.

Sudan's al-Bashir Arrives in Amman 30 Sep

JN3009154292 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] His majesty the king welcomed Sudanese President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir upon his arrival in Amman today to congratulate his majesty on his recovery and safe homecoming. Present at the welcoming ceremony were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, speakers of both houses of parliament, the chief of the Royal Court, and other high-ranking military and civic officials.

President al-Bashir is accompanied by the secretary general of the Sudanese Revolutionary Council and the Sudanese foreign minister.

In a statement to reporters upon his arrival, the Sudanese president said he was very pleased to see his majesty the king in healthy condition. He prayed for his majesty's continued health, saying the Arab world needs his wise leadership, especially through the current hard international and regional situations.

On efforts to achieve peace in southern Sudan, President al-Bashir said there are continued endeavors to implement a peace program, adding that his government is determined to achieve that despite the rebels' obstinate positions. However, he pointed out to the victories the Sudanese forces have made there and the possibility of ending the dispute militarily. But he reiterated that the issue is a political one and should be solved politically.

Departs Amman

JN3009162292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn saw off Jordan's esteemed guest, His Excellency Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation, upon his departure from Amman this afternoon at the end of a short visit to Jordan. During his stay in Jordan, the Sudanese leader congratulated His Majesty King Husayn on his recovery and safe return home. [passage omitted]

During the visit, the two leaders exchanged views on current Arab issues, particularly ways of restoring cohesion to the Arab fold and realizing a united Arab position that would enable the Arab nation to confront the crucial challenges obstructing its march, and thus enable future generations to live honorably and attain progress among other nations. [passage omitted]

Crown Prince Cables Saudi King on National Day

JN2209164692 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Sep 92

["Text" of cable from Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, dated 22 September—read by announcer]

[Text] Custodian of the two holy mosques, brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, Riyadh.

I take the opportunity of the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's national day to send to you on my behalf and that of the people and government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan our warmest congratulations and sincerest brotherly sentiments. We also pray to God Almighty that come the next anniversary you will be enjoying the best of health and the brotherly Saudi people will have attained further advancement and prosperity.

Prince Hasan Bin-Talal, the regent.

Israeli Attacks in South Continue

Air Raids on Villages

NC0110070492 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] The Zionist enemy resumed its acts of aggression against the peaceful villages of southern Lebanon. Hostile helicopters last night launched two raids on citizens' homes. According to security reports, at 2230 last night, two Zionist Cobra helicopters fired four missiles on Shaykh Ahmad Zalzalah's home in the village of Dayr Qanun al-Nahr, destroying the second floor of the house and wounding Zalzalah, who was taken to the Jabal 'Amil hospital. Two Israeli helicopters fired three missiles on houses in the village of 'Ayn Bu Siwar in Iqlim al-Tuffah, but there are no reports about casualties. Islamic Resistance and Lebanese Army ground defenses confronted the hostile helicopters.

Sniper Fire, Overflights

NC3009121592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] We have just received a report from a NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in the south that the highway between al- Nabatiyah and Bint Jubayl districts has been closed due to continuing sniper fire originating from the occupation forces' positions in Tallat 'Ali al-Tahir and Tallat al-Shumariyah, which started at 1330 today. A civilian car was trapped and its driver went into the woods to avoid the fire.

At 1330 today, Israeli warplanes carried out reconnaissance sorties over the al-Litani river.

Amal Links Israeli Attacks, U.S. Envoy's Remarks

NC3009123892 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] The Amal Movement al-Janub [South] Command held an emergency meeting today. A statement said that the Israeli military escalation in the south threatens the situation there. It coincides with certain political stances declared by the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, which do not serve Lebanon's interests and are not compatible with promises and efforts to advance the peace process and to evict the occupiers from our land and implement Resolution 425 as a national priority. Every Lebanese faction that is eager to liberate the land and restore national sovereignty with the help of international and regional parties should work toward that goal. Regional and international parties promised Lebanon that they would work toward that goal and stressed Lebanon's legitimate right to resort to every available means to extend its authority throughout its territory.

The statement called on the government to shoulder its responsibility toward the south and for its people to stay on their land despite their lacking the most basic requirements to remain steadfast. The statement stressed continuing cohesion between the people and their national Army and backing for steadfastness and resistance to liberate every inch of the occupied south.

Foreign Minister To Hold Contacts on Attacks

NC3009172092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] While cautious calm, insofar as military operations are concerned, prevailed in the south today, active diplomatic moves to confront the developments were made. Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh asked the foreign minister to hold the necessary contacts with friendly countries and the United Nations to press Israel into stopping its flagrant attacks against the south. The prime minister also met with Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan, acting Foreign Ministry secretary general, to learn about the Ministry's moves concerning the Israeli aggressions.

The situation in the south, along with other pressing topics, will be discussed during the weekly cabinet session, which opened at 1730 today under the chairmanship of President Ilyas al-Hirawi and the attendance of Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh and the ministers. Ministers Walid Junblatt, Nabih Birri, and As'ad Hardan are absent from the meeting.

Afghanistan

Saudi Special Envoy Continues Mediation Effort

BK3009134892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1149 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 30 (AFP)—A special emissary of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has held separate talks with Afghan leaders with the aim of consolidating the ceasefire in Afghanistan, the Saudi embassy said Wednesday.

Prince Turki al-Faysal, Saudi Arabia's intelligence chief, met with dissident Hezb-e Eslami faction head Golboddin Hekmatyar inside Afghanistan on Monday, the mission said in a statement.

Before meeting Hekmatyar, the prince had talks with interim Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani during his visit here at the weekend.

The embassy said the envoy also had a meeting with Yunis Khales, chief of a splinter group of Hezb-e Eslami, in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar.

"The meetings were part of the consistent Saudi efforts aimed at persuading the Afghan brethren to work for peace and stability," the embassy statement said.

Prince Turki, who also conferred with Pakistani leaders during his three-day trip, returned home late Monday.

Hekmatyar, addressing a press conference in the Afghan city of Jalalabad on Tuesday, accused the government-allied militia forces of violating the ceasefire agreement that ended bitter fighting in August.

The Hezb leader alleged that planes from a foreign country, which he did not identify, were involved in frequent raids along with militia aircraft on the Hezb-controlled Shindand airbase in western Afghanistan.

Demanding an immediate halt to the alleged violations, he threatened retaliatory action.

A Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman said later Prince Turki's visit was in continuation of "coordination" between Riyadh and Islamabad to promote peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Pakistan welcomed Saudi efforts to foster conciliation among the Afghan factions, he told a press briefing.

The spokesman declined comment on the outcome of the prince's meeting with Hekmatyar, which was also attended by Pakistani officials.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabian Ambassador Yusuf Muhammad al-Motabbakani Wednesday announced a donation of 10,000 tents on behalf of King Fahd for the Afghans displaced by recent fighting in Kabul.

Officials said the kingdom had also sent 2,000 barrels of oil, diesel and kerosene fuel, which was being transported to Afghanistan by road.

Iran To Loan $50 Million for Reconstruction

LD3009173192 Tehran IRNA in English 1649 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Kabul, Sept. 30, IRNA—Interim President Borhanoddin Rabbani today wound up his one week visit to Iran and Pakistan and returned to Afghanistan.

In an interview with IRNA upon his arrival here, Rabbani described his visit to Tehran as "fruitful and constructive" and said that practical steps have been taken for promotion of cultural, economic and political relations between Tehran and Kabul.

He added that Afghanistan believes that Iran is for a "free, independent, progressive and Islamic" Afghanistan.

Rabbani confirmed that Iran has agreed to offer $50 million in loan to his country for reconstruction.

Militias Reportedly Preparing To Attack Rebels

LD3009135192 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] The militia forces of the [word indistinct] communist regime says that we may be forced to leave Kabul so that we can prepare ourselves in the north against the Pashtuns and the Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan. [as heard]

The correspondent of the Radio Message of Freedom reports from Kabul that the aircraft belonging to Dostam have been flying to and over Kabul for the past two nights to identify the trenches and main bases of the Hezb-e Eslami and Ettehad-e Eslami so that they can attack them when the time comes.

The report adds that the north coalition is heading for a total isolation in the northern regions of the country while the reputation of the Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan is increasing because of its [word indistinct] Jihadi and Islamic (?wise) policy.

Regime Said Distributing New ID Cards in North

LD3009135992 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] The correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom reports from Kabul that during the recent visit of [Defense Minister] Ahmad Shah Ma'sud to the northern regions of the country he received instruction from Babrak Karmal and General Dostam to distribute to people their group identity cards from the so-called National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan.

The report adds that Ahmad Shah Ma'sud, after his return from the north, issued instructions to [words indistinct] to distribute the the cards of the unholy north coalition to the people instead of the Jamiat cards. The

unholy coalition of the north is heading for total isolation in the northern regions of the country while the reputation of the Hezb-e Eslami is increasing [words indistinct].

India

Three Killed in 'Unprovoked' Pakistani Firing

BK0110032292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, three civilians were killed and five others injured in unprovoked firing by Pakistani troops at the border village of Palanwala in Jammu District yesterday. An official spokesman told AIR [All India Radio] correspondent that Pakistani troops fired mortars on civilian areas deep inside the Indian territory three times in the day.

Pakistan Accused of 'Waging Proxy War'

BK3009150292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] India has cautioned Pakistan that it will get a befitting reply unless it stops aiding and abetting militants in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing a two-day district Congress-I convention in Jammu today, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, accused Pakistan of waging a proxy war in the two border states to destabilize India. Mr. Bhatia hoped that the security forces would succeed in wiping out the roots of terrorism from Kashmir with cooperation from the common people.

Police Action Against Insurgents Reported

Eleven Militants Killed in Punjab

BK2909151892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 sep 92

[Text] In Punjab, 11 militants, including two hardcore, were killed in separate encounters with the security forces since last evening. According to an official spokesman three militants, including one hardcore Mangat Singh responsible for many killings, were killed at village Bigha Lehra early this morning. Another hardcore militant, L.R. Singh and two of his accomplices, were killed at village Kazala in Gurdaspur district. A large quantity of arms and ammunition were also recovered from the sites of the encounter. Five other militants were killed in separate encounters in Ludhiana and Gurdaspur districts.

Three Killed in Kashmir

BK3009161292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, three hardcore militants were killed and 18 apprehended in different parts of the valley during the last 24 hours. An official spokesman said in Srinagar that three security personnel were also injured. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from the arrested militants. One militant surrendered before the security forces.

Rao Visit to France Termed 'Useful'

BK0110041892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Om Gupta commentary]

[Text] Despite all apprehensions between India and France on the nuclear fuel issue, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's visit to that country, which concluded yesterday, can be termed useful in more ways than one. During Mr. Rao's three-day visit, both the countries decided to step up ministerial-level contacts in a significant way. As many as four senior French ministers holding important portfolios like space research, defense, foreign affairs and foreign trade will be visiting India before the year-end. India and France have also agreed to promote bilateral relations in political, economic, and cultural fields. Mr. Rao and President Mitterrand discussed in great detail how the relations in these areas could be improved further. However, much will depend on the financial and industrial communities in the two countries as how they respond to the good will generated during Mr. Rao's visit. But enough political signal was given yesterday by Mr. Mitterrand during his talks with the prime minister, Mr. Rao.

India and France in their diplomtic wisdom decided not to unnecessary harp on French uranium supply to India. France, in passing reference, expressed its inability to do anything in this regard at the moment as it has signed the Nonproliferation Treaty and, therefore, was committed to the Missile Control Technology Regime. However, this matter was left to be taken up at an appropriate time and level. France tried to remove all kinds of fears about the prospects of a unified Europe becoming a fortress to the detriment of the developing countries. Mitterrand assured Mr. Rao will try its level best to help India and other developing countries, not withstanding its commitment to the European unity. Both sides were in total agreement about the need to democratize United Nations and its changing role in the post-cold war world. In this regard, both sides agreed to have regular contacts at the delegation level in various world bodies.

The most important fallout of Mr. Rao's visit was that henceforth, the foreign secretaries of the two countries will be meeting at least twice a year for a bilateral dialogue. Not [word indistinct] was expected from this visit, but still the most positive gain is a clear indication given by France that it was willing to discuss any issue with a flexible mind without compromising with the basic situation. France, on its part, showed enough interest in the fields of selling nuclear reactors, jet trainer aircraft and underwater technology for remote sensing of nuclear submarines. Mr. Rao might not have broken any

new ground, but he has definitely paved the path for a more pragmatic and meaningful relationship with France during his visit.

Janata Parliament Members Join New Party

BK3009102092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Three of the five Janata Party members in the Lok Sabha and one of the two in the Rajya Sabha have joined the newly floated Samajwadi Party, causing a split in the Janata Party in both the houses of Parliament. They are Mr. Udaya Pratap Singh, Mr. Ram Sagar, and Mr. Chote Singh Yadav, all from the Lok Sabha, and Professor Ramgopal Yadav from the Rajya Sabha. This was announced today at a joint press conference by Professsor Ramgopal Yadav and the All India general secretary of the Samajwadi Janata Party, Mr. Mahfooz Ali Khan, who also announced his decision to join the new party.

Apr-Jul Trade Deficit Increases Over FY91-92

BK3009141292 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 16 Sep 92 p 15

[Text] New Delhi, Sept. 15—While India's exports in dollar terms during the first four months of the current financial year has recorded a slight growth of 1.99 per cent, the trade deficit has increased nearly three times against the corresponding period last year.

India's exports in US dollar terms in April-July 1992-93 [the beginning of the 1992-93 fiscal year] are estimated at $5,437.72 million, as against $5,331.80 million during the corresponding period in 1991-92, signifying a growth of 1.99 per cent.

On the other hand, the country's imports in US dollar terms in April-July 1992-93 are estimated at $7,559.43 million as against $6,102.39 million during April-July 1991-92, showing a growth rate of 23.9 per cent.

The latest foreign trade figures provided by the Commerce Ministry indicated a steep increase in the trade deficit which went up to $2,121.71 million during April-July 1992-93 against 770.59 million in April-July 1991-92.

During July, exports are estimated at $1,393 million, registering a growth rate of 7.1 per cent over the corresponding period last year.

India's exports in rupee terms in April-July 1992-93 have amounted to Rs [rupees] 15,562.44 crore as against Rs 11,576.19 crore, in April-July 1991-92, indicating a growth of 34.43 per cent. Imports in rupee terms during the period are estimated at Rs 21,634.64 crore as against Rs 13,249.27 crore in April-July 1991-92, showing a growth of 63.29 per cent.

The trade deficit in rupee terms is estimated at Rs 6,072.20 crore in April-July 1992-93 as against Rs 1,673.08 crore in April- July 1991-92.

Exports to the General Currency Area (GCA) in US dollar terms during the period amounted to $5,209.99 million as against $4,762.77 million in April-July 1991-92, signifying a growth rate of 9.39 per cent. In rupee terms, exports to GCA in April-July 1992-93 are estimated at Rs 14,910.68 crore as against Rs 10,340.74 crore, showing a growth of 44.19 per cent.

The first quarter of the current financial year has registered only a marginal growth of 0.4 per cent in dollar terms in the country's aggregate exports. The total exports during the first three months of 1992-93 in dollar terms are estimated at $4,013.06 million as against $3,998.73 million during the corresponding period last year (1991-92).

The trade deficit during April-June of the current financial year is estimated at $1,563.67 million as against $733.91 during the corresponding period in 1991-92, marking an increase of nearly 100 per cent.

Iran

Readiness To Continue Talks With UAE Noted

LD0110090492 Tehran IRNA in English 0718 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 1, IRNA—Iran is ready to continue negotiations with the United Arab Emirates on Abu Musa island but without any preconditions and within the framework of respect for the national sovereignty, territorial integrity and good-neighbourly relations, announced a Foreign Ministry official here Wednesday night [30 September].

The announcement came in response to the remarks made by a UAE official who had told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that Abu Dhabi was ready to resume talks with Tehran provided that Iran accepted to discuss the lesser and greater Tunbs as well.

The Foreign Ministry official told IRNA that the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes the UAE readiness to continue the talks in Tehran and that the Iranian chief negotiator has invited his UAE counterpart to continue the talks in Tehran. "Of course, it is natural that the two countries' negotiations should take place without any preconditions and within the framework of respect for the national sovereignty, territorial integrity and good-neighbourly relations," he reiterated.

Media Comment on 'Deadlocked Negotiations'

U.S. Held Responsible

LD3009110992 Tehran IRNA in English 0851 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 30, IRNA—Three morning dailies Wednesday editorialized on the deadlocked negotiations between Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) over the Iranian island of Abu Musa.

'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' wrote that the U.S., after exploiting Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia was now being tempted "to milk the UAE."

Obviously, the paper noted, if the UAE treaded the same clear and rational path of the past, no ground would be prepared for materialization of the plots master-minded by Washington.

"It is for this same reason that Washington is attempting to achieve its vicious objectives through overt and covert hands employed to divert the UAE from its right direction," said the article.

It stressed that it were the same hands which imposed two devastating wars on the region, adding that all the big powers challenged Iran in its war with Iraq (1980-88) but left the scene with humiliation. The article said there were differences of opinion in the UAE over Abu Musa issue with one faction attempting to fan the flames while the other favouring a peaceful settlement through negotiations.

However, developments of the past few days showed that the faction which received instructions from the U.S. and intended to achieve UAE's objectives within the framework set by the U.S., dominated the other one, it said.

Arguing what was behind the UAE's objective for being provoked to create tension in the region, the daily concluded by saying that the country was treading a "by-way" which had already drawn others to a quagmire. "The UAE is expected to take a lesson from what has befallen on others and not become a tool in the hands of diabolic powers."

Commenting on the same subject 'ABRAR' wrote that the UAE officials had dragged Abu Dhabi talks to a standstill in order to "loudly repeat the Western-inspired myth at the United Nations."

Despite the hasty attempt of the United Arab Emirates in creating a crisis, the moderate states were pursuing the UAE move with suspicion, said the article, wondering whether "another fire was coming out of the Persian Gulf waters."

"The UAE move should be searched in the White House's strategy, that is opposition against Iran... The UAE, by raising historical claims would not only involve the whole Arabian Peninsula in tension but would terrorize the sheikhdoms of the region as well," commented the daily.

The UAE, through its historical claim, had dealt the first blow on its ally in the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council, Bahrain, and put the country at stake, it added.

"Today, the U.S.-inspired myth is being read out at the United Nations by the UAE representative. This is the greatest treason against the UAE allies at the (Persian Gulf) Cooperation Council. No wise man would ride on tides aboard a paper boat," concluded the daily.

Meanwhile, the 'TEHRAN TIMES' said: "The UAE leaders know very well that if the trend of historical events were to be reversed and claims of past history, Iran certainly would not be among the losers."

However, it added, in spite of the obvious advantage which Tehran could derive from referring territorial claims to past history, "Iran is quite aware that this infantile fantasy and futile game of trying to reverse the inexorable march of time, would have no result other than that of creating tensions and instability in the region."

It underlined the fact that in the past 13 years, the UAE authorities had never presented any objection over the issue of Abu Musa and moreover, the subject of the lesser and the greater Tunbs had not been at all raised in meetings between president Hashemi-Rafsanjani and high-ranking UAE officials in the recent non-aligned summit session in Jakarta.

"Naturally, tensions in the region would be primarily to the advantage of the big powers whose presence in the region is illegal and unjustifiable. Secondly, it would benefit the lesser powers such as Egypt which have adopted an extortionist policy with regard to the oil rich southern Persian Gulf littoral states in an attempt to resolve their own internal problems," said the article.

It concluded by saying that Iran still preferred to pursue its customary policy of self-restraint. But, if the UAE leaders intend to aggrandize the present crisis they should realize that Iran's patience is not unlimited.

UAE's 'Historical Claims' Dismissed

LD3009125592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1104 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Good day, dear listeners. Our country's foreign minister has issued a statement holding the UAE [United Arab Emirates] responsible for halting the talks regarding Abu Musa island.

In view of the importance that Islamic Iran attaches to the preservation and expansion of friendly relations with it neighbors and to the stability of the region, it has, from the beginning of the problem concerning individuals other than the Sharjah subjects of the Abu Musa island, endeavored to clear the misunderstandings that have arisen between the ruler of Sharjah and the Iranian officials of Abu Musa Island.

Iran took part in the talks at Abu Dhabi. Unfortunately, the UAE Government—by insisting on the inclusion in the talks of so-called historical claims concerning the Iranian islands of Greater and Lesser Tunb—diverted the topic from its natural course and brought the talks to an impasse.

The approach of the UAE Government was totally unexpected by the Iranian officials and it shows that that government is trying to take advantage of Iran's goodwill. This matter, on its own, casts doubt on the claim that there is a problem regarding Abu Musa. Historical claims in the Persian Gulf region have no logical or historical basis because all the countries of this littoral—excepting Iran—have no historical continuity and depth and, on the whole, their governments came into existence after the first or second world wars with the discovery of oil.

Thus, the historical claims raised by the newly founded countries, whose life does not stretch beyond several decades, cannot solve border disputes in this region. Moreover, the people of this region have to some extent not forgotten the bitter taste of the Iraqi regime's historical claims in both the destructive and lengthy imposed war and in the oil war. They shall never forget the destructive and long-term results of such claims. These experiences were acquired at great cost by the governments of this region, and they should be enough to prevent a repetition of such tragedies.

Unfortunately, some of the countries of the Persian Gulf littoral who have certainly not forgotten these events and are fully aware of the consequences of such a dangerous game, have been dragged into the game of creating discord in the region through the provocation of some other countries. The rich countries of the Persian Gulf must not forget that the objective of agents operating behind the scene is not to safeguard the interests of the Emirates; rather it is to create a sense of danger among them in an attempt to resort to extortionism.

Moreover, because of the existence of border disputes and a host of historical claims in the Persian Gulf region, any attempt to open up such claims would be even more dangerous. It also brings up concerns for the future. Iraq's historical claims on Kuwait, differences between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia over the neutral zone and the (Qaru) and (Um al-Maradon) Islands, and claims of Bahrain and Qatar over the (Huwarr) and (Fesh al-Debl) Islands and other claims and counter-claims in the region—these all reveal the unlimited and dangerous dimensions of existing differences. If these are to be taken up then the region will be turned into an inferno of differences in which the first victims of such a dangerous play would be the small countries.

Some political experts in the region believe that the efforts to create propaganda and political hue and cry over Abu Musa Island have distracted governments and the peoples of the region from the compromise which is being worked out over Palestine. In other words, behind-the-scene players are raising unfounded territorial claims in the Persian Gulf and diverting the attention of the Muslim people of Arab to that artificial crisis in an effort to trample upon the aspirations of the people of the region and the undeniable territorial rights of Arab and Islamic worlds in the sacred land of Palestine.

U.S. Said Pressuring Iran Via UAE

LD3009200192 Tehran IRNA in English 1736 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran Sept. 30, IRNA—The Persian daily RESALAT said in an editorial comment Wednesday that UAE's [United Arab Emirates] territorial claim against Iran in the Persian Gulf is part of a "controlled crisis" by the United States for pressuring Iran.

The editorial saw the UAE's claim on the three islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs as a loophole in the chain of U.S. plots against the Islamic Republic which, in the opinion of the daily, started out with Iraq's war against Iran in 1980 and continued in various other ways culminating in a more recent pitting of the Turkish Government against the Islamic Republic.

It said the biggest losers in any such crisis in the Persian Gulf will be the very shaykhdoms of the region, and commented that UAE and the Amirs of the Persian Gulf states would do well to recall what eventually befell Kuwait which had continuously armed Iraq against Iran.

The commentary said in part: "The ultimate question is: Which countries will bear the main brunt of an induced crisis?

"Obviously, the shaykhs of the shaykhdoms south of the Persian Gulf are currently involved in a 'crisis of self-legitimacy', and the United States, despite its pretense to democracy, fully supports the arbitrary regimes in those states. To bury the differences between the seven emirates and prevent the people's interference in the government's affairs, the UAE needs such artificial crises with the help of which it may deflect its (internal) problems from the home front to outside of the country.

"But will that emirate hold out in an all-out war or will a development like that mess up everything at home?

"Unfortunately those Amirs have proved that they are reluctant to learn a lesson from a history which is now only a few years past. "Didn't the Amir of Kuwait offer weapons to Saddam Husayn relying on his petro-dollars, and did he not eventually ruin his own country with the same weapons that he had gifted to Saddam Husayn?

"Does the Amir of Bahrain not know that he will suffer most from his own support for the UAE? Why? Because before 1971 there was no independent government in the name of Bahrain. Does the Amir of the UAE not know that after the return of the island Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs to Iran in 1971 there was no such country in the name of the United Arab Emirates on the basis of which it might present a claim today, and that in point of law such a claim is basically unfounded.

"If Egypt and Saudi Arabia should have any claim to lordship and wish to sail on the waves of the crisis they shall get to nowhere. Why? Because as long as the United

States is militarily present in the Persian Gulf it considers itself as the police of the region and will not allow those countries to be given a police role in the Persian Gulf.

"In brief, even if the Amirs of the Persian Gulf states did not think about the security of the region but only about how best to perpetuate their rule they would prevent a 'third crisis' in the Persian Gulf to follow the war of oil tankers and Iraq's invasion of Kuwait."

Turkish Minister Comments on Cape Maleas Release

NC0110082692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Mehmet Batalli, Turkish minister of state and the Turkish head of the Iranian-Turkish Joint Economic Commission, has announced that the Turkish court issued its verdict on the release of the Iranian vessel Cape Maleas.

Arriving in Tehran this morning, Batalli said it is Turkish Government policy to broaden its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added: We are planning Prime Minister Demirel's visit to Iran.

'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceania, who welcomed Batalli at Mehrabad Airport, expressed his pleasure at the release of the Cape Maleas, adding: Along with planning to expand relations further, we should tackle the elements that erode bilateral relations.

Borujerdi stated: The Islamic Republic of Iran hopes that problems for relations between the two countries, like the impounding of the Cape Maleas, will not be repeated.

Azerbaijan Official Arrives for Caspian Meeting

LD3009060492 Tehran IRNA in English 1756 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Astara, E. Azarbaijan Prov., Sept. 28, IRNA—Chief of Azerbaijan Republic's environment protection committee Aref Maqsudov arrived here today to participate in the meeting of Caspian Sea littoral states' council to be held in Tehran later this week.

He said the meeting would enable the littoral states to set up joint cooperation to protect the Caspian Sea. He added a meeting only by experts from Iran, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Russia and Kazakhstan could adopt measures to conserve the environment of the Caspian Sea. The Tehran meeting was important for Iran's international influence, he noted.

Maqsudov added the Caspian Sea had flooded its coasts and overflown houses, railroads, roads, gas and water pipelines. He said the damage in Azerbaijan alone was 12 billion rubles. Azeribaijan's oil complex is in danger of being overflown, he added.

He said the former Soviet Union had compelled the local government in Azerbaijan to set up all industrial installations by the sea and pour their sewage into the Caspian Sea.

Maqsudov said the establishment of a joint and permanent committee for the control of sewage in the littoral states of the Caspian Sea is a positive step.

Since 1977, he said, the water of the Caspian Sea had risen by 2.5 meters and scientists say it will rise by another 0.5 meter by 2015.

He said earthquakes and the decrease of evaporation caused by oil pollution are the principal reasons for the rising of the Caspian Sea water.

Tajik Minister Notes UNESCO Meeting in Tehran

LD3009125692 Tehran IRNA in English 0831 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept 30, IRNA—The visiting Tajik Minister of Culture Zakirjan Vazirov discussed issues of mutual interest with minister of culture and higher education Mostafa Moin [name and title as received] here Tuesday.

The two exchanged views on further bilateral coordination on holding an international congress for cultural and scientific cooperation among the Central Asian states which is due to be held in Tehran next month with cooperation of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

They also discussed implementation of a letter of understanding for bilateral research and scientific cooperation signed by the two countries before.

Vazirov voiced Tajikistan's readiness to massively contribute to the holing of the international congress among the Central Asian countries. He also expressed the republic's interest in expansion of bilateral cooperation with the Islamic Republic.

IAEA Criticized for Leniency on Israel

LD3009144992 Tehran IRNA in English 0725 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran Sept. 28, IRNA—A morning daily Monday stressed that if there is to be a resolution in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on nuclear safety and control in the Middle East, it is expected for the law to be fairly applied to all the member states, even Israel.

On Friday the IAEA headed off an Arab-backed provision criticizing Israel, with the TEHRAN TIMES saying

that it was the first time in 11 years that there was no Arab resolution seeking Israel's expulsion from the agency.

"The compromise by the Arabs is apparently part of an effort to reach a settlement with the Zionist state, even though such attempts continue to be frustrated by Israel's Western allies, notably the United States," commented the daily.

Stressing that there was no doubt about Israel's nuclear capabilities and Tel Aviv's efforts to proliferate its atomic weapons program, the article pointed to revelations made by an Israeli atomic worker early in the decade which received extensive coverage in the media but no response from Western leaders.

"While Muslim countries have been continually denied access to nuclear energy, even for peaceful purposes, Israel faces no limitations in trying to procure and develop atomic weapons. In Iran, for example, our nuclear energy program continues to be ostracized by the West in spite of the numerous assurances we have made to the IAEA to work within a peaceful framework," it noted.

It is in this connection that Bushehr atomic power plant which was initiated by Germany's Siemens in the mid-seventies had been left unfinished, thus depriving the country of much of the energy it desperately needs, the editorial added.

It lauded the IAEA's measure in censuring Iraq for concealing 175 nuclear weapons programs, but regretted that such punishments were extended only to the weak countries, and not to those violators who enjoyed the backing of great powers.

Semiannual Figures on Trade With Japan Released

LD3009201892 Tehran IRNA in English 0630 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 28, IRNA—Bilateral trade between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan reached to 342,333 million yen (2,646 million dollars) in the first half of the year 1992.

During the same period Japan exported 174,831 million yen (1.351 billion dollars) worth of finished products to Iran and reciprocally imported 167,502 milllion yen (1.295 billion dollars) of mostly crude oil and other items from Iran.

According to information received from the Iranian Embassy here, due to increase in project material purchases and reconstruction efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran and also the fall in oil prices the value of Japanese export items to Iran exceeded the imports for the first time.

Japan is the main purchaser of Iranian crude oil and is currently importing over 400,000 barrels per day.

Over the last two years trade exchange between the two countries exceeded five billion dollars and it is expected to reach to around the same level during the current year.

Rafsanjani Message Read at Defense Conference

LD2909215392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Excerpt] The fourth holy defense conference to discuss ways of preserving the spiritual and cultural traditions and values of the holy defense opened in Tehran today, with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message.

The president's message, the text of which was read by the president's social advisor, Mr. Mohajeri, described the epic eight-year holy defense as an indication of the strength and ability of the gallant Iranian nation and a body of unprecedented and valuable experiences. The message reads:

Revival of the values of holy defense requires general mobilization, and there is no doubt that our courageous nation will do its utmost to preserve the valuable heritage of the epic of their brave offspring.

Elsewhere in his message, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani refers to the needs and priorities and also the national expansion plan which is currently taking place with the participation of combatants throughout the Islamic homeland. He describes this as a clear example of the experience of the holy defense, hence the need to review the structure of this amazing epic and to appraise its dimensions as an action in terms of aquiring the best defense model, enriching culture, and accelerating national expansion. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Army Spokesman Blames India for 27 Sep Skirmish

BK3009122792 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 30 Sep 92 p 8

[Text] "Islamabad (PPI)—The indiscriminate firing by Indian troops on the civilian population across the Line of Control had forced the Pakistan Army to open fire on the Indian soldiers two days back, Sunday.

"This was stated by a Pakistan Army spokesman while talking to PPI here on Tuesday. The spokesman strongly dispelled the negative propaganda being spread by India that it were Pakistani troops who opened fire on the Indians first.

"He said this was also totally incorrect that the Pakistanis were digging trenches in the Indian held Kashmir.

"The spokesman said that India was using all the negative tactics to surpress an indigenous uprising of Kashmir freedom fighters to exercise the right of self determination and was busy in a baseless propaganda

campaign only to divert attention of the world from massive human rights violations in the valley.

"Responding to a question, he, however said that artillery duals are a normal phenomenom on the Line of Control. But the Pakistan Army, in line with the government's policy, always shows restraint and never opens fire across the Line of Control unless it becomes inevitable, he added."

Kanjoo Consults With India's Faleiro, Others

BK2909152492 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, has held more talks with his Indian, Saudi, and British counterparts on various issues, including Kashmir. The talks with the Indian foreign minister, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, focussed on the Kashmir issue and other confidence-building measures.

Mr. Kanjoo also had a meeting with the Latvian president, Mr. Anatolijs Gorbunovs. He briefed him on the economic reforms carried out by the government. The Latvian president said his government wishes to learn from the experience of Pakistan.

The New Zealand prime minister, Mr. Jim Bolger, during talks sought Pakistan's support to his country's candidature for a seat on the Security Council for 1993-94. Mr. Kanjoo assured that Pakistan would give sympathetic consideration to the request.

Meets UK Foreign Secretary

BK2909161292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Pakistan has urged Britain to use its special influence on India for a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue. This appeal was made by Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, minister of state for foreign affairs, during his meeting with the British foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, in New York. Kanjoo said the resolution of Kashmir will enable Pakistan and India to expedite the pace of their economic development. The British foreign secretary appreciated Pakistan's efforts for a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue.

Pakistan and India have stressed the need for continuing their efforts to resolve outstanding disputes between them. This was stated at a meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries in New York yesterday. They also stressed that Pakistan and India should continue their efforts for solutions to other issues as well, including Wular barrage, Sir Creek, and Siachen. The India minister, Eduardo Faleiro, lauded Pakistan's role as the chairman of Group of 77.

Khan, Sharif Greet PRC on National Day

BK0110033492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif have extended felicitations to the government and people of China on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the People's Republic of China, which is being observed today. In their separate messages to Chinese President Yang Shangkun and Prime Minister Li Peng, they have hoped that relations of friendship and cooperation between Pakistan and China will continue to grow and gather strength in the years ahead.

Sharif To Visit 6 Oct

BK3009143892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, will pay a five-day official visit to China from Tuesday [6 October]. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the invitation of the visit has been extended by the Chinese prime minister, Mr. Li Peng. The prime minister will hold talks with Mr. Li Peng focusing on the emerging international environment, vital global and regional issues of mutual interest, besides bilateral relations. The prime minister will also call on the Chinese president, Mr. Yang Shangkun, and the secretary general of the Chinese Communist Party, Mr. Jiang Zemin.